





C. F. F. CAMPBELL

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Lyrasis Members and Sloan Foundation

<http://www.archive.org/details/blind02unse>

THE BLIND.

VOLUME II.

1903 to 1907.

(inclusive.)

LONDON :
GARDNER'S TRUST FOR THE BLIND,
53, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

Hv 1571

B

LONDON:
FARMER & SONS, STEAM PRINTERS,
295, EDGWARE ROAD, W.

INDEX.

SPECIAL ARTICLES:—	PAGES.
A Blind Squatter, by Alfred Hirst	194
Address and Presentation to Mr. James H. Hewitt	215
Annual Christmas Festival of the Royal Normal College	143
A Register of the Blind, by William H. Tate	63
A Visit to Some of the Principal Continental Institutions for the Blind, by A. B. Norwood and H. W. P. Pine	452
Blind Collectors of Subscriptions	16
Blindness and the Present Position of Braille, by A. W. G. Ranger, LL.D.	331
British Braille Committee	92, 115, 142
College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester...	427
Condition of the Blind in Egypt...	37
Esperanto for the Blind, by Miss Hilda E. Boord...	358
General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, Workmen's Augmentation Fund, by Henry Stainsby	450
Henshaw's Blind Asylum—the New Scheme	44
Howe, Dr. S. G.	15
Institution for the Blind, Zeitoun, Cairo, Egypt	400
Massage by the Blind, by J. Fletcher Little, M.B., M.R.C.P.	144
Michael Anagnos	431
Moon's Society	435
North of England Union of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind, by A. B. Norwood	518
Opening of the New Kindergarten Branch School, Harborne, Birmingham	273
Poultry Rearing as an Occupation for the Blind, by Capt F. Pierson Webber	253
Re-opening of the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind	489
Report of the Conference Committee on "Defective" Blind Children	29
Royal Normal College for the Blind	90
Sydney Industrial Blind Institution, by H. Hedger	360
Technical Instruction for the Blind of London	111
The Blind in Ireland, by J. H. Hewitt	217
The Blind Sisters of St. Paul	553
The Difficulties of Training and Educating the Blind, &c., by J. Moldenhawer	491
The Edinburgh Congress (1905), by Walter H. Dixon	290
The Education of the Blind under the London School Board, by Miss Rose F. Petty	41
The Educational and Industrial Institutions for the Blind in Scotland, by Colin Macdonald	523
The Effect of Biting the Finger Nails Considered in relation to the Reading Nerves of a Blind Child, by W. H. Illingworth	550
The Government and higher Education for the Blind, by H. W. P. Pine	406
The Higher Education of the Blind, by the Rev. T. Barnard, M.A.	301
The Higher Education of the Blind, by the Rev. Jaffray B. Nicholson, M.A.	185
The International Conference of 1905	201, 226, 247
The Late Archbishop of Canterbury	10

	PAGES.
The Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham ...	447
The Societies and Missions for the Blind in Scotland, by J. Frew Bryden	555
The Work of the Sunbeam Mission, by Miss B. Taylor ...	117
What is being done for the Education of the Blind in Scotland, by W. H. Illingworth...	165
Work Amongst the Blind in the West Indies, by the Rev. W. Herbert Mayers, M.A. ...	307
Aberdeen Asylum ...	155
Accrington Society ...	139, 478, 486
Adams, Miss ...	279
American Association of Workers for the Blind ...	509
Anagnos, Michael (the late) ...	445, 545
Asquith, A. M. ...	485
Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind ...	88, 104, 152, 163, 271, 389, 396, 475, 488
Association Valentin Haüy ...	213
Association for the Blind in Australia ...	22
Bainbrigge, Miss E.M. ...	320
Balls, Miss Mary ...	439
Bangor Home Teaching Society...	139, 355, 488
Barbados, the Blind in ...	241, 267, 445, 547
Barclay Home for Blind Girls ...	160, 208, 231, 243, 259, 261, 283, 322, 356, 486
Barclay Workshop for Blind Women ...	321, 347, 515
Barker, G. T. M. (the late) ...	176
Barker Memorial ...	230, 256
Barnard, Rev. T. ...	237, 255, 538
Bartlett, Miss Alice ...	439
Bansor, Miss Elsie ...	439
Belfast Workshops ...	55, 160
Bell, Miss M. M. ...	474, 506
Bible in English Braille ...	471
Bill to Amend the Act, 1893 ...	53
Bill (Elementary Education, Ireland) ...	416
Bill to Provide for the Technical Education, &c. ...	416
Birkenhead Society ...	79, 87, 104, 160, 269, 380
Birmingham Institution ...	8, 12, 54, 77, 78, 83, 84, 87, 105, 127, 153, 159, 182, 183, 211, 265, 266, 288, 352, 411, 419, 425, 443, 444, 477, 513
Blenkarn, Miss Gertrude ...	347
Blott, Miss ...	281
Blyth, Miss ...	131
Board of Education ...	81, 182
Bolam, Rev. C. E. ...	349, 438
Bolton School ...	287
Bolton Workshops ...	12, 110, 288
Boyle, G. R. (the late) ...	75
Bradford Education Committee ..	423
Bradford Institution ...	6, 23, 25, 26, 100, 128, 183, 214, 288, 325, 355, 513
Bradford "Daily Telegraph" Fund ...	393, 444
Braille Correspondence Club ...	104, 239
Braillette ...	9
Braille Music... ..	81, 109
Braille Music Library ...	125
Braille Writer (v. Stainsby-Wayne)	
Braille Writing Indicator ...	474

	PAGES.
Braille Writing Machines	546
Bridgman, Laura	108
Briggs, John (the late)	259
Bristol Association	27, 139, 270, 394, 478, 486
Bristol Blind Asylum	50, 60, 153, 161, 209, 269, 395, 478, 514, 538
Bristol Home for Blind Women... ..	139, 238, 266, 394
British Braille Committee	51, 92, 115, 142, 151, 180, 263
British and Foreign Blind Association	13, 60, 133, 155, 419, 446, 504, 539
Brooker, Sydney	347
Bruford, G.	102
Buckle, A., Memorial Tablet to	206
Burrell, Miss Dora	314, 379, 439
Burrows, Sir F. A. (the late)	204
Bussell, Miss Grace	439
Butler, Miss G.	380
Cairo Institution	355, 484
Campbell, Dr. and Mrs. F. J.	314
Cardiff Guild of Social Workers	184
Cardiff Institution	183, 211, 288, 395, 514
Carlisle and Cumberland Association	87, 270, 395
Cassel, Sir Ernest, Gift from	22
Cheek, F. E.	503
Chess Club	103
Chess, First Steps in	129
Christmas and New Year Cards in Braille Type	181, 287, 414, 538
" " " " " " Moon's Type	284, 414, 538
Clay, W. G. (the late)	176
Clements, Miss G.	439
Clifton Blind Women's Home (<i>v.</i> Bristol Home)	
Coaker, Fk. F.	101, 346, 347
Cole, C. E. (the late)	98
College of Teachers of the Blind	504, 537
Colne Society	131
Committee on "Defective" Blind Children	4
Conference (London, 1902), Reports of the	242
Conference (Edinburgh, 1905)	149, 201, 260, 320, 349, 382
Conference (Manchester, 1906)	354, 391, 414
Conference (Manchester, 1908)	261, 322, 382, 413, 441, 504
Conference (York, 1907), Report of	545
Conference Employment Committee	261, 323, 383, 385, 413, 443, 473
Conference Organisation Committee	261, 322, 382, 413, 441, 504, 548
Congress at Brussels	5
Congress at Hamburg	509
Congress, International, on School Hygiene	472
Congress, Spanish	548
Convention in U.S.A.	159
Cook, Hill	205
Cope, Leonard	411
Copenhagen Institution	137
Copland, Arthur	25
Corbett, Dr. (the late)	381
Corbett, Dr.	278
Corbett-Dyer, W.	232
Cornwall Itinerant Blind Society	161
Correspondence <i>in re</i> Brussels Congress	18
" " Sixth Sense, &c.	20
" " Keeping Accounts, &c.	343, 375
Country Home for the Blind	138, 421

	PAGES.
Cousins, Miss ...	232
Cross, D. ...	536
Crowley, J. ...	315, 534
Crowley, Miss L. ...	314
Darling, Sidney ...	178
Deacon, Wade ...	345
"Defective" Children ...	413
Denmark, Travelling by Rail in...	508
Dexter, Rev. A. J. ...	502, 534
Dickson, Miss ...	315
Dixon, W. H. ...	80
Dobesa, Senor L. ...	109
Dow, Mrs. (the late) ...	469, 503
Dowdeswell, Sam ...	151
Draycott, J. ...	503
Dublin (Richmond Institution) ...	155, 161, 289, 425, 548
Dundee Institution ...	395, 477, 514
Dutchburn, Mr. (the late) ...	503
East London Home ...	284, 316
Ebury Street Blind Class ...	61, 140, 271
Edinburgh Asylum and School ...	54, 214, 283, 315, 321, 330, 380, 382, 389, 439, 484, 486
Editorials ...	1, 21, 49, 73, 97, 123, 149, 175, 203, 229, 255, 277, 313, 345, 377, 409, 437, 469, 501, 533
Education Act, 1902 ...	79, 105, 132, 151, 153, 182, 420
Education (Administrative Provision) Act, 1907 ...	537
Electrical Communicating Machine ...	423
Esperanto ...	390, 546
"Excelsior" Magazine...	282
Exeter Home Teaching Society ...	23
Exeter Institution ...	27, 101, 105, 126, 243, 356, 418, 487, 542
Eyre, Rev. C. B. ...	81
Fawcett Memorial Scholarship ...	177
"Fellowship" Magazine ...	7
Foley, Miss S. ...	314
Forfar Mission ...	282, 356
Frayling, C. H. ...	378
Furniss, H. ...	502
Gadsby, G. F....	232
Gale, Dr. J. (the late) ...	470
Gardner, J. L....	49
Gardiner, Miss M. ...	314
Gardner's Trust for the Blind ...	3, 126, 206, 232, 243, 317, 318, 350, 440, 479
Gardner's Trust (University Scholarships) ...	317, 346, 378, 471
Gardner's Trust, Library of ...	240, 347
Gaul, Alfred R., Report by ...	211
Gell, P. Lyttelton ...	229
Gibson, Mr. (the late) ...	260
Glasgow Asylum ...	244, 356, 487
Glasgow Outdoor Mission ...	160, 287, 425
"Golden Sunbeams" ...	538
Godfrey Ermen Memorial Home (v. Southport)	
Golding, A. V. ...	6
Gray, Mrs. ...	81, 125
Greenslade, Miss K. ...	315

	PAGES.
Gregory, Thomas	24
Griffiths, Rev. David	379
Hall, J.	281, 317
Hall, H. L. (the late)	241
Hamer, Miss	535
Hamilton, G. H.	316
Hampstead Braille Magazine	6
Hanley Institution (<i>v.</i> North Staffordshire)	
Hardebeck, C. G.	124, 177, 346
Harper, Miss Mary	439
Harris, Alfred... ..	410
Hauy Brothers, Statue of	138
Hawkins, Robert	105
Hedges, Miss F. C.	474
Hendry, A. W.	57, 76, 101, 393
Henshaw's Blind Asylum 28, 80, 141, 271, 319, 321, 398, 421, 474, 516, 538	
Herries, Lord	157
Hetherington's Charity... ..	178
Hewitt, J. H., Presentation to, &c.	215
Higher Education of the Blind (<i>v.</i> Education Act, 1902)	
Hill, Rev. St. Clare	100, 388
Hirst, Alfred	316, 445, 536
Hockaday, Mr. and Mrs.	125
Hodgson, Miss A.	315, 348
Hollins, Alfred	100, 125, 153, 177
Holloway, Miss A. E. (the late)	409
Holroyd, Miss Lizzie	264
"Hora Jacunda"	26
Howard, Hugh	347
Hoxton Society (<i>v.</i> London County Council)	
Hull Home for Blind Women	7, 22
Hull Institution	27, 140, 244, 396, 515
Hunter, John	439
Illingworth, W. H.	6, 205, 315, 319
Indigent Blind Visiting Society	62, 549
"Information with Regard to Institutions for the Blind," &c. 5, 22, 439, 472	
Institute for Massage by the Blind	78, 102, 128, 206, 284
Intercession, Quarterly Paper of	131
International Association of Blind Students	394
International Association of Blind Musicians	483
International Conference (<i>v.</i> Conference)	
Italy, the Blind in	159, 214, 267
Japan Blind Society	485
Javal, Dr. E. (the late)	470
Jerusalem Home and School	329
Jones, Albert (the late)	124
Jones, Miss Emily	314, 379
Jones, Miss E. M. J.	75
Kartum, the Blind of	485
Keily, Patrick	347
Keller, Miss Helen	85, 138, 150, 484
Kensington Workshops (<i>v.</i> West London Workshops)	
Kent Workshops	60, 162, 289, 325, 396, 515
King, Miss	279
King's Scholarships Examinations	179, 279

	PAGES,
" King's Messengers "	348
Kingdon, Rev. H. T. G.	50
Knitting Machines	355
Kota-Kota School for Blind Children	287
Kruger, J. P.	280
 " La Gazetta Musicale "	 109
Lane, H. F. W.	230
Laurie, William	347
Lausanne Blind Asylum	58, 548
Lawrence, Hon. Maude	2, 231
Lawson, J. W.	536
Lear, Rev. J. P.	124
Leatherhead School	54, 128, 267, 270, 388, 507
Leeds Institution	7, 12, 331, 477
Legrand, Maurice	86
Leicester Institution	13, 88, 184, 289, 426, 549
Leitch, Robert	379
Lending Library, the National	78, 127, 154, 178, 210, 237, 257, 283, 322, 473, 474
Léon, Albert	86
Lewis, H. E. C.	378, 410
Library in Rome	136
Linden Lodge School	210, 320
Lister, Mr.	346
Liverpool Catholic Blind Asylum	60, 162, 289
Liverpool School	60, 245, 357, 515
Liverpool Workshops	8, 480, 515
" Living by the Spirit "	57
Llandaff, Bishop of	237
Llewellyn, Rev. G. M.	50, 150, 256
Lloyd, William	178, 204
Loans from Board of Education	81
Lohr, Miss	257
London Apprenticing Committee	2
London County Council, Children's Treats	23, 130, 235, 351, 475
London County Council, Need of Training Schools	214
London Home Teaching Society	54, 61, 140, 238, 319, 350, 478
London School Board, Report of Special Schools... ..	134
London School Board, Exhibition of Work	57
London Society for Teaching the Blind to Read	6, 88, 162, 257, 271, 397, 506
Lowe, A. L.	215
Lowther, Right Hon. J. (the late)	176
Lucas, Miss	74
Lungley, Miss M.	535
 Macartney, K. C.	 256, 346
Macdonald, Colin	352, 377
McIntosh, Mr.	285
McLaren, J. W.	9
McWilliam, N. G.	379
Magazines for Sale	348
Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society	62, 77, 134, 141, 156, 179, 234, 245, 262, 282, 283, 354, 357, 391, 516
Manns, Sir August (the late)	100
Maps	59
Martin, T. H.	257
Mascaro, Dr	378

	PAGES.
Massage by the Blind, Institute of (<i>v.</i> Institute)	
Massachusetts Commission	182
Mead, W.	508
Melbourne Association	137
Middlesbrough Workshop	55
Midland Institution (<i>v.</i> Nottingham)	
Midleton, Viscount (the late)	501
Millard Blind Writing Guide	213
Missionary Leaflet	131
Moldenhawer, J.	137, 279, 509, 510, 547
Monmouthshire Society	80, 138, 480, 508
Moon's type, books in	129, 158, 207, 213, 266, 284, 393, 414, 507
Moon's Magazine	282
Moon, Miss	378, 410
Moore, F. N. (the late)	259
Moore, James	280
Morgan, Herbert	
Morris, Miss M. A.	211
Murray, Rev. W. H.	59
National Blind Relief Society	140
National Lending Library (<i>v.</i> Lending Library)	
Nature Study among Blind Children	506
Newcastle-on-Tyne School	156, 163
Newcastle-on-Tyne Workshop	157, 164, 324, 550
Newport Blind Aid Society (<i>v.</i> Monmouthshire)	
New York Institution	58, 424, 484
New York State Commission	137, 182, 510
New Zealand International Exhibition	444
Nicholson, Rev. Jaffray B.	380
Norris, Mr.	285
Norris, Miss Catherine... ..	439
North Adelaide Institution	57, 393, 445
Northampton Association	7, 89, 102, 164, 290, 398, 550
North London Homes	55, 156, 209, 263, 391, 479, 507, 549
North of England Union of Institutions for the Blind	391, 415, 481, 503, 543
North India Missionary Institute	9, 50, 330
North Shields Institution	13, 240, 482
North Staffordshire Institution	55, 110, 208, 331, 488, 549
North Wales Home Teaching Society (<i>v.</i> Bangor)	
Norwich Blind Asylum... ..	62, 164, 272, 398, 444, 550
Norwood, A. B.	412, 470
Nottingham Institution	14, 77, 90, 127, 214, 239, 246, 281, 318, 327, 358, 390, 488, 516
Oke, H. G.	534
Oldham Blind Women's Industries	154, 390
Oldham Tramways Company	413
Oldham Workshop	141, 246, 398, 517
"On behalf of the Blind"	4
Organists of Note	542
Osborn, T. G.	502
"Outlook for the Blind"	483, 545
Oxford Free Library	6, 25, 59, 83, 108, 129, 240, 283, 507, 538
Oxford Home Teaching Society	22, 128, 214
Palmer, Rev. W. S. C.	176, 237, 278
Pamphlet, "Information with regard to Institutions, &c." (<i>v.</i> Information, &c.)	
Parry, William,	26, 75

	PAGES.
Pearson, Alexander	74, 438
Peden, Andrew M.	380, 471
Pennsylvania, Home Teaching Society	137, 158, 207
Percy, Lady Algernon	281, 423
Perkins Institute	26, 137
Perrin, F. W.	205, 265
Phoenix Home for Blind Women	110, 396
Pine, H. W. P.	214, 327, 412, 420, 470
Plater, J. J.	76, 109, 138, 381
"Playtime Magazine"	109
Plymouth Institution	63, 125
Police Notice, York	210
Pope, Rev. G. C.	74, 150, 204, 237, 346
Portugal, Schools in	509
Postcards, Picture	474
Post Office Arrangements	102, 355
Post Office, U.S.A., enactment	158
Post Office (Literature for the Blind Act), 1906	416, 474
Potter's Wheel	159
Poultry Farming	76
Powell, A. H.	204, 314, 502
Preston Homes	261, 320
Prevention of Blindness, leaflets on	6, 80, 214
Priest, F. W.	50, 74, 100, 131, 177, 279, 379, 410, 534
Prison-made goods	484
"Progress"	6
Prosser, Miss (the late)	535
"Railway Magazine," extract	354
Railways, Free Passes on	508
Raison, G. H.	503
Reading Blind Aid Society	28, 142, 246, 358, 517
Recent Literature	20, 48, 72, 96, 129
Rees, David	314, 379
Richmond Institution (Dublin) (v. Dublin)	
Robbins, Albert	24, 74, 257
Robins, Rev. W. H.	470
Rockliffe, Dr.	7, 22
Rodriguez, Branco	509, 547
Royal Blind Pension Society	54, 156, 351, 506
Royal Commission on the Feeble-minded	179, 315
Royal Normal College ...23, 89, 100, 112, 127, 128, 151, 157, 163, 182, 230, 234, 245, 264, 268, 348, 387, 397, 476, 505, 511, 540	
St. Louis Exhibition	135, 158, 207, 243
Sankey, Ira	50
"Santa Lucia," copy wanted	503
Schofield, W. A.	177, 204, 256
Scott, Dr. Kenneth	22, 381, 438
Scottish Outdoor Blind Teachers' Union	388
Sergeant, Monsr.	109
Sharp, Miss Annie (the late)	9, 50
Sharpe, Rev. T. W. (the late)	278
Sheffield Institution	23, 28, 53, 142, 272, 388, 391, 399, 517
Shirreff Braille	329
"Sight and Hearing in Childhood"	84
Sight to the Blind	133
Sizeranne's "The Blind Sisters of St. Paul," and other books	108, 508
Smith, Albert M.	314, 378

	PAGES.
Smith, Mr. & Mrs. F. S.	125
Smith, James E.	316
Smith, Rev. J. H. G.	74, 99, 150, 237, 256
Smith, Lawley T.	502
Smith's Training College	5, 314, 379
Society for Granting Annuities to the Poor Adult Blind	155
Somers Town Blind Aid Society	349
Sotheby, Lady (the late)	124
Souter, H. C.	205, 347
South London Association	61, 162, 270
South London Institute	325
Southport Home	77, 134, 156, 179, 234, 262, 386
Spanish Congress	548
Spanner, Victor	534
Springett, Miss F.	314
Stafford County Education Committee	151, 206, 535
Stainsby, Henry	233, 315, 353, 380
Stainsby-Wayne Automatic Interliner Braille Writer	52, 153, 180, 505
Stainsby-Wayne Shorthand Typewriter	108
Stockport Institution	287
Stone, W. M.	321, 382
Stormont House School	235
Student's Quarterly Magazine	390
Summerhill, Mr., M.P.	484
Sunbeam Mission	8, 211, 385, 420, 542
Surrey Association	89, 426
Swansea Institution ..	426
Swayne, Rev. R. C.	124, 230
Swinnerton, Rev. J.	417
Swinnerton, Rev. J. Junr.	150, 204, 237, 256
Swiss Association	59
Sydney Blind Institution	238
Tansey, Rev. A.	207, 257, 279, 412, 535
Tate, W. H.	23, 444
Taylor, Maj.-Gen. G. K. (the late)	437
Taylor, W. G. (the late)	260
Teachers' Certificates	439
Telephone Operator	380, 443
"The Blind," Back numbers of, &c.	5, 21, 178, 207, 240, 281, 317, 472, 503
"The Blind Sisters of St. Paul"	508
"The Braille Review"	26, 109
"The Braille Weekly"	284
"The Centurion's Servant"	131
"The Daily Mail"	440
"The Story of my Life"	85
Thomasson, J. P. (the late)	287
Thornewell, Miss A.	318
Till, Miss C.	206
Timm, Master...	279
Townson, James	258
Tramways, fares on	308
Tricycle (tandem), for sale ..	157
Tyer, Mrs. W. E.	232
Uniform Braille Committee	51
University Examination, Expenses of	389
United States of America, Reports, &c., from	394

	PAGES.
"Vatra Luminosa"	446
Victorian Association of Braille Writers	424
Vivian, Glynn, Home of Rest	471, 540
Wakefield Workshops	14, 156, 164, 207, 238 272, 399, 517
Walkingstick	104
Walsall Workshop	238, 265
Walthew, G. (the late)	287
Warden, Rev. J. F.	124, 176, 278
Warrilow, H. C.	125
Watling, Horace	24, 257, 315, 410
Watson, Rev. T.. Poem by	136
Way, Percy	74, 257
Webber, Capt. F. P.	76, 109, 471, 534
Webber, Capt. G. G.	257
Wedgwood, Godfrey (the late)	325
Wednesbury, Dalston and Tipton Society	238
"Weekly Summary"	7, 80, 181, 281, 287, 414, 440
Wesleyan Methodist Hymn Book	180, 241
West, Miss	347, 444
West London Workshop	53, 290, 397
Weston-super-Mare Exhibition	480, 504
Whitby Applewoman	241, 317
Whitby Trust	241, 317, 386, 413, 439
Whiteside, John	99
Whittleton, G. F.	74, 99, 204, 502
Wickham, Miss J. (the late)	280, 317
Wilbur, J. H.	242
Wilkinson, J. G.	411, 502
Williams, Percy	347
Willoughby, Miss	259
Willowpeeling... ..	411
Wilson, Dr. Andrew	133, 214
Wilson, John, Poem by... ..	286
Wolstenholme, W.	125, 204, 502
Wolverhampton Society	63, 164, 206, 272, 399, 412, 518
Worcester College for the Higher Education of the Blind	318, 541
Wrigley, Alfred	279
Wycliffe Cottage Homes	155
Yiddish leaflets on prevention of blindness	6
York, Tea by Lord Mayor of	393
Yorkshire School	90, 103, 108, 132, 157, 159, 181, 184, 239, 290, 427
Yoshimoto, T.... ..	5, 21, 266, 485, 546
Ziegler Magazine for the Blind	446

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 21.

JANUARY 20TH, 1903.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 15th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Hon. Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters **must** be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

With this number a new volume of THE BLIND begins, and we must take this opportunity of thanking all those who have kindly contributed special articles and given useful information during the past five years. It is our chief desire and aim to make these pages as interesting and instructive as possible, and therefore we count on the continued kind co-operation of our contributors in the coming years. The secretaries of the various Institutions and Societies are earnestly requested to send us copies of their reports as soon as published, and to give full information in regard to any extension of work, or formation of any new Society. In our next number we hope to print two articles, both of which ought to be very interesting. One, by Miss R. F. Petty, Assistant Superintendent under the London School Board, and Inspector of Homes of blind children boarded out, on the arrangements made for the education of blind children under the Board. The other by Mr. W. H. Tate, of Bradford Institution for the Blind, on the subject of a National Register of all blind persons.

May we remind those who intend to subscribe to this paper this year, and have not yet paid their subscription, that it is now due. The payment of 1½ ensures the receipt of one copy of each quarterly number, post free. THE BLIND is not yet self-supporting, although nearly so, and therefore we are most anxious

to increase the number of copies sold each quarter. Several Institutions kindly subscribe for a copy for each member of their respective Committees, and if this excellent example were more generally followed, we believe that the cost of printing would be entirely met. From henceforth there will be a cover to each number, so as to prevent the outside pages from getting soiled or dirty.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. All those who are interested in the Blind will cordially welcome the formation of a Committee for the apprenticing and after-care of blind children under the London School Board, to be called the "London Blind and Deaf Children Scholarships and Apprenticing Committee." The Committee has been formed on the proposal of the Hon. Maude Laurence, Chairman of the Special Schools Sub-Committee, L.S.B., and is constituted as follows:—Two members of the London School Board, one member of the Technical Education Board, one member of the Asylums Board, one member nominated by the Gardner's Trust for the Blind, one member nominated by the Charity Organisation Society, one member nominated by the Royal Association in Aid of the Deaf and Dumb, and two members to be co-opted by the Committee. We understand that the particulars of each child will be considered about six months before reaching the age of sixteen, so that it might then be decided what training is necessary after sixteen, and how that training is to be obtained, or if no further training be necessary, how, and what kind of employment is to be found for the child. And that one of the special managers of the School from which a child comes, will be appointed to visit and look after him, or her, when first placed out. This is the first time that a system, similar to that known as the "Saxon," has ever been adopted by a public body in England, and is worthy of all emulation. We heartily congratulate the Hon. Maude Laurence for having initiated such a

complete scheme for dealing with blind children at the most critical period of their lives, when the helping hand stretched out to them, will save many from drifting into the streets, and make them industrious members of the community and useful citizens.

2. The Annual Report of the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind appeared in the *Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, and *Standard* of January 10th, and gives a brief record of the assistance given to the Blind and to Institutions and Societies for their welfare during the year 1902. Reference is made to the Conference organised by the Trust in April last, and grateful thanks are publicly accorded to all those who took part in it. The Committee also draw attention to the fact that they assisted during the past year in the establishment or extension of seven new workshops and in giving material assistance to six others. The following is a summary of disbursements sanctioned during 1902 :—(1) £3,959 towards the board and tuition of 105 scholars at various Colleges and Institutions, including those held at the Universities, of the value of £60 a year each; (2) £2,860 to 225 pensioners—there are 27 pensioners at £20, 68 at £15, and 130 at £10 a year; (3) £1,393 to 27 Institutions and Societies for building purposes, general expenses, &c.; (4) £832 towards the fees for the instruction of 68 pupils above the age of 16 years at various schools and workshops; (5) £486 to 72 individuals for assistance in starting or carrying on their trades as pianoforte tuners, basketmakers, matmakers, chaircaners, &c. It will be seen from the above statement that no fewer than 173 blind persons above the age of 16 years have been assisted in order to enable them to have complete and full instruction in the professions or trades which they intend to adopt. The Trust comes of age on the 23rd of February next. The present Secretary was appointed on February 21st, 1882, and began work on February 23rd. Since then, the Trust has been in active operation during the 21 years. Leaflets on Prevention of Blindness can be obtained *gratis* on application at the Office, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

3. Miss Isabel M. Heywood, Claremont, Manchester, has published a booklet, entitled "On Behalf of the Blind," price 6d. It is not written for those who are already working on behalf of the Blind, but for the purpose of enlisting the sympathy and active support of "the happy majority who enjoy the inestimable blessing of sight," who take little or no interest in the Blind because they know nothing about them. Miss Heywood's suggestions for assisting and uplifting the Blind are good and clearly stated, and we hope her booklet will be widely read and be the means of starting more Societies for the Blind in districts which sadly need them. The first thing to do, as Miss Heywood states, is "to make a correct register of the names and addresses of all the blind men and women living in the town or district." And here we would remark, let no one think that a Society in any particular district is not needed because there are *apparently* very few blind people. We know from experience how often the very few become very many when the blind are diligently sought out. Reference is made to the necessity of visiting, of a sick and benefit club, of a library, of special Homes, &c., and the earnest spirit in which Miss Heywood works on behalf of the Blind pervades every page of the book. We must, however, point out two slight errors, viz.: on page 25 the Rev. H. J. Marston is called "Mr. Marsden," and on page 29 Gardner's Trust is called "Garden's Trust." It would also have been better to mention on page 29 that Mr. Wilson's pamphlet is 4d. post free.

4. The report of the Committee, formed at the Conference in April last, to deal with "defective" blind children, will be issued very shortly. The Committee have held their meetings in the office of Gardner's Trust, by kind permission, and consist of the Hon. Maude Lawrence, Chairman of the Special Schools Sub-Committee of the London School Board, Miss P. Douglas Townsend, Hon. Sec. to the National Association for promoting the Welfare of the Feeble-minded, Dr. Francis Warner, Chairman of the Council of "Childhood Society," Mr. H. Wade Deacon, President of the Liverpool School for the Blind, and Mr. C. S. Loch, Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, who acted

as chairman. These constitute a strong committee of experts, to deal with a most difficult subject, and one of supreme importance.

5. So many applications have recently been received for copies of the pamphlet, "Information with regard to Institutions for the Blind," by Mr. Wilson, that we must repeat that the last edition has been out of print for some time. A new edition is, however, now being prepared, and it is hoped that it may be ready, at latest, by February 23rd. Letters have been issued to all known Institutions and Societies in England and Wales, so as to get all necessary information up to date, but the editor will be glad to hear of any recently formed Societies, which may not have received the circular letter.

6. The following is the result of the Government Examination for Teachers, held at the Smith Training College at Norwood, July, 1902. Teachers' Certificates:—2nd year. The Misses Edith Ascoli, Kate Greenslade, Eleanor Harris, and Phœbe Schofield. King's Scholarships:—The Misses Rosina Freeman and Bessie Hendry; Messrs. Joseph Crocker and Ernest Littlewood.

7. The report of the International Congress at Brussels in August last, came to hand just as we were going to press. It forms a large volume of 388 pages, clearly printed.

8. Mr. T. Yoshimoto, who has recently returned from Japan, and is collecting all the information he can about the education and instruction of the Blind in the United Kingdom, is anxious to buy Nos. 1 to 20, both inclusive, of "The Blind," in order to send the volume to the Institution for the Blind in Tokio. Can any of our readers accede to his request? Several applications have also been received for back numbers of "The Blind" now that the 1st vol. is completed. The numbers which are most required are 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8. If anyone can spare, and is willing to sell, any copies of these, the editor will gladly receive them and pass them on to those who have written him for them.

9. As the result of a prize offered by "Good Words" for the best coronation poem, Mr. A. V. Golding, of Birmingham, was sixth, out of eleven hundred competitors. His poem is published in the July number of "Good Words."

10. The following books have been recently added to the Oxford free library:—(Ward Fowler) "City State," last two volumes; (Butcher), "Some Aspects of the Greek Genius"; (Anson), "Law and Custom of the Constitution," (Select Charters), vol. v.; (Lightfoot), "Leaders of the Northern Church"; (Newman), "Dream of Gerontius"; (Baring-Gould), "Silver Storehouse."

11. We are pleased to hear that the leaflets on "Prevention of Blindness," printed in Yiddish, by the Gardner's Trust, have been considered so valuable for distribution amongst the young Jewish mothers of the poorer class in London, that a request has been made to the Trust to reprint 3,000 more copies. The request has been acceded to.

12. Mr. W. H. Illingworth, head master of the Edinburgh School for the Blind, was the speaker this year at the Bradford Institute for the Blind, on Founder's Day, and remarked that at that Institution they had solved the problem of obtaining lucrative employment for women, as it was the only Institution in the country which made the knitting department pay.

13. "Progress," the official organ of the British and Foreign Blind Association, will henceforth be interpointed and be issued monthly, beginning this month. The subscription, payable in advance, is 6/- post free. The office is at 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

14. A new Magazine, "The Hampstead Braille Magazine," appeared in November, and is published on the 15th of each month, by the London Society for Teaching the Blind, 10, Upper Avenue Road, Hampstead, N.W. It consists of 60 pages, and the price is 1/-, or by post 1/3. It is well printed and the selection of articles from the various magazines published by George Newnes & Co., and of stories of which they hold the

copyright, guarantees interesting reading. The claim to originality lies in the making of each number of the magazine complete in itself.

15. "Fellowship," a Braille Monthly Magazine to which reference was made in No. 15, paragraph 17, is the organ of the Society of "Fellowship of the Blind and Seeing," and can be obtained, price 6d, post free, from the Hon. Sec., 28, Gloucester Crescent, Regent's Park, London, N.W. A prospectus in ordinary type will be sent free by the Hon. Sec. on receipt of a directed stamped envelope.

16. The Editor of the *Weekly Summary*, Shere, Guildford, has issued a very neat turnover Braille calendar for 1903, consisting of 13 pages, tied with ribbon. There are designs of the signs of the Zodiac, and quotations from Longfellow's "Poets' Calendar" for each month. The price is 2/- in safety wrapper.

17. We congratulate Dr. Rockcliffe on the successful result of his untiring efforts in organising a ball and concert for the purpose of raising money to form an endowment fund for the Home for Blind Women at Hull. The net proceeds, together with special donations, amount to £1,650, and the sum aimed at was £1,700. We trust that, if only as a reward for the great labour undertaken by Dr. Rockcliffe in this matter, the balance of £50, to which donations have already been sent, will be raised before these lines appear.

18. The Northampton Association for the Blind, formed in 1896, finds that the present workshops, opened in 1898, are inadequate for the number of workpeople employed. There are 12 male and 4 female workers. An appeal has, therefore, been made for £1,500, and a grand bazaar is being organised. The Committee desire to take on lease near the centre of business in Northampton, suitable premises for larger and more commodious workshops, a store room, a retail shop, and a recreation room and library.

19. The Leeds Institution for the Blind has again received grant of £60 from the Technical Instruction Committee of the

Leeds City Council. Would it not be well for other similar Institutions to make application for assistance from this source? At Leeds the grant has enabled several blind pupils to obtain training in piano-tuning, brush and basket making, &c.

20. The Committee of the Workshops for the Blind, Cornwallis Street, Liverpool, have recently secured a block of five houses immediately opposite the present workshops, where it is proposed to erect, as soon as funds will allow, a plain factory building, fully equipped, and made thoroughly sanitary. It is thus hoped to considerably increase the number of workers (of whom there are already 135), and at the same time to improve the conditions under which they work. We congratulate the Committee on this valuable forward movement and on having obtained land so close to the present buildings.

21. A Drawing room meeting was held on October 31st, in Brasenose College, Oxford, by the kind invitation of the principal and Miss Heberden, on behalf of the proposed Kindergarten School, to be built in connection with the Birmingham Institution. The Rev. L. R. Phelps, of Oriel, presided, and the other speakers included Mr. A. V. Golding, of Birmingham, the Rev. H. E. Clayton, M.A. Brasenose (member of the School Board), and Mr. Walter H. Dixon, M.A. The meeting was a great success.

22. The "Sunbeam Mission," which works under the sanction of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York, is doing much to brighten the lives of poor and suffering children. A Branch has lately been started specially for the benefit of blind children who are poor. Members (under the age of 17) or Associates (over the age of 17) promise to send a magazine or paper every month to one blind child. Many of the papers are written in Braille type, and it is suggested further that letters, or small suitable gifts, should be sent in addition to the magazine. The work is entirely self-supporting, members paying 6d. entrance fee, associates 1/-. (There are no annual subscriptions). All information can be obtained on application to

the Hon. Secretary, Miss Beatrice Taylor, Danekeld, 39, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, S.E., enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

23. Most of our readers will have heard of the invention by Mr. J. W. McLaren, of Edinburgh, who states that he has devised a means of greatly accelerating the speed of printing Braille, and at the same time reducing the cost to a very large extent indeed. He assures an interviewer that the new process will turn out sixty-four thousand copies per hour, and that a weekly newspaper of twenty pages for the Blind can be issued at the cost of one penny. Mr. McLaren also intends to issue illustrated school books, and a cheap reprint of popular novels in paper covers at the price of sixpence. If this invention succeed, Mr. McLaren may fairly claim to have effected a complete revolution in the system of Braille printing, and to have conferred an inestimable benefit upon the Blind by placing good literature within their reach at a small cost.

24. A pamphlet containing full particulars of "Braillette," to which we referred in the October number, 1899, paragraph 17, can be obtained from Mrs. Trietschel, 64, Magazine Lane, New Brighton, Cheshire. It is an invention to facilitate the method of teaching persons to read and write in Braille.

25. Since the North India Missionary Institute for the Blind was started in the compound of St. Catherine's Hospital (C.E.Z.M.), Amritsar in the Punjab, the work has grown so steadily that it has been found necessary to remove to Rajpur, situated on an elevated plateau at the very foot of the Himalayas, where there will be greater space and more healthy surroundings than is possible in a crowded city like Amritsar. Besides the regular supply of pupils to the Institution, great kindness has been shown in taking in many famine waifs of both sexes, who but for this Home, would probably have perished. This steady and beneficent work of mercy is carried on by Miss Annie Sharp, who is at present in England, staying at The Grange, Redhill, Surrey, trying to raise the £500 necessary to complete the purchase and alterations of the new Home at Rajpur.

THE LATE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

Many pens of writers, readier than ourselves, have described in graphic language the noble life and strong character of Dr. Temple, late Archbishop of Canterbury, but none so far as we are aware has given any account of his great interest in the Blind, and his valuable efforts on their behalf. He was not only a member of the Royal Commission for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., from 1885 to 1889, but he was also a member of the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind from March, 1885 to July, 1893, and a regular attendant at the meetings, until his diocesan duties pressed too severely on him. It was he whom the Committee of Gardner's Trust appointed as their representative to give evidence before the Royal Commission in regard to a variation of the scheme, which was subsequently sanctioned by the Charity Commissioners, and it was our privilege, at his request, to accompany him when he gave this evidence, and to read the proof thereof, with his instructions, "to see if there is any inadvertent misstatement, &c." On one occasion when speaking to him about some evidence previously given, he said, "I remember it, but I was not present at that meeting. I have read *all* the evidence as it came to me." Those who know what a huge blue book of 876 pages is formed by the evidence, will realise what a difficult task it must have been for a Bishop of London to find time to read all of it. But when Dr. Temple felt it his duty to do so, as no doubt he did, nothing would stop him. His love for his Creator was so intense and real, that duty was the interpreter of it in his every act. He was a hard unceasing worker, and beneath an abrupt manner and uncompromising plainness of speech, there was the warmest of loving hearts which at times moved him to tears, as we witnessed on one

memorable occasion. In 1887 the first edition of the pamphlet giving information about the Institutions for the Blind was brought out and a proof was sent to each member of the Committee of Gardners' Trust. Within a post or two the copy sent to Dr. Temple was returned with marginal notes and queries, showing that he had read the pamphlet right through. Naturally, this proof copy with his notes is much treasured by us. In it occurred a common error, which we have taken care should never happen again! And that was to write, "I beg to acknowledge, &c." Dr. Temple's marginal note on these words is, "To beg is to ask for something from somebody. If you beg to acknowledge, what do you ask for, and from whom do you ask for it? It ought to be 'I beg leave to acknowledge,' but in this place it would be best to say, 'I have to acknowledge.'" Dr. Temple was President of several Institutions for the Blind, and in 1890 he took the chair at one of the meetings of the Conference, held at the Royal Normal College for the Blind. At that time he himself was suffering from defective eyesight, and could not see properly how to go up or down the steps in the grounds of the College without taking someone's arm. Many of the Archbishop's remarks have been printed, and we will conclude this brief article by mentioning a characteristic one. At a meeting of the Kensington Ruridecanal Conference, when Dr. Temple was in the chair, the subject for discussion was "The Bishop of London's Fund." There were several speakers, and then the present writer rose to make a suggestion that the annual reports of the Fund should be made more attractive by illustrations—a suggestion afterwards adopted—and that the frontispiece should be a portrait of the Bishop. At this point Dr. Temple remarked, "You don't mean to say that you think a portrait of me would prove attractive," a remark received with much laughter.

INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES.

Birmingham. The Annual Meeting of the General Institution for the Blind, Carpenter Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, founded 1848, was held on July 9th, when the Lord Mayor of Birmingham presided. The report is for the year ended March 31st, 1902, during which period 605 blind persons were benefited. There were 127 resident pupils, 10 day pupils, 11 teachers, 61 day-workers and 372 adults. A little over £9,000 have been raised towards the £20,000 required for the proposed new Kindergarten School. £83 have been paid to 19 blind persons to enable them to start in a trade. The sales amounted to £6,267 and £1,753 were paid to the Blind in wages. Seven ex-pupils are earning their living by typewriting and shorthand, one being employed as a correspondence clerk by Remington Typewriter Co. Legacies amounting to £3241 were received, but on the general Account there was an adverse balance of £2,214.

Bolton. The Annual Meeting of the Schools and Workshops for the Blind, Tipping Street, Bolton, was held on May 14th, when the 35th Annual Report for the year ended March 31st, was adopted. Twenty-five men and three women have been constantly employed and received £824 in wages. The sales amounted to £1514.

Leeds. The Twenty-sixth Report of the Leeds United Institution for the Blind, and the Deaf and Dumb for the year ended June 30th, 1902 has been issued and was presented at the Annual Meeting on November 3rd, 1902. At the close of the year there were 52 blind workers, of whom 29 were in the brush department. The sales amounted to £7,632, being an increase of £760 on last year, and £1,303 were paid in wages. There was a profit in the brush, caning, and shop departments, but a loss in those of the baskets and mats. There is a Sick Society, managed by the blind workers, with a balance in hand of £155. There are 417 blind persons on the

register and the two visitors paid 5,340 visits last year. £256 were paid in pensions and relief. A grant of £60 was received from the Technical Instruction Committee of the Leeds City Council. The legacies amounted to £130, and the deficiency on the year's working was £107.

Leicester. The Annual Meeting of the Association for promoting the general welfare of the Blind, 50, Granby Street, Leicester, founded 1858, was held on June 12th, and the 43rd Annual Report for the year 1901 was presented. Sixteen men and thirteen women had constant employment and received £144 in addition to their actual earnings. The sales amounted to £3667. A legacy of £100 was received. In the Home Teaching branch 189 persons were visited by a sighted woman. The Cottage Home in which there are four blind women, has been removed to a freehold cottage at 17, South Albion Street, which has been purchased for £415 10s.

London. The Report for 1901 of the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, W., refers to the severe loss sustained by the death of Mrs. T. R. Armitage. She nobly and assiduously carried on the work of her husband, who predeceased her by 11 years. She was a great benefactress to the Association. "In addition to paying all rentals, expenses of the office and salaries of its staff, she made anonymously large contributions to the general funds." The report contains a list of the appliances and books which can be bought at the office, with their respective prices. The sales of books, &c., during the year amounted to £1,829. An interesting account of the origin, history and objects of the Association by Mr. Alfred Hirst is also given in the report.

North Shields. The Report for 1901 of the Northern Counties Blind Society, 2 and 5, Howard Street, North Shields, refers to the death of their energetic Hon. Sec., the late Alderman J. F. Spence, to whom we referred in No. 16, paragraph 3. The library consists of 3,816 volumes, viz: 2,548 in Moon's type, and 1,268 in Braille, but the circulation of Braille books was larger than that of those in Moon's type. There are

25 blind persons who work at their own homes and send their goods to the shop for sale, and seven are employed in the workshop in basket and mat making.

Nottingham. The Midland Institution for the Blind, Chaucer Street, Nottingham, held its annual meeting on December 3rd, when Earl Manvers, the President of the Institution, presided. The report for the year ended March 31st was read, in which reference was made to the abandonment of the educational department last year, and to the buildings now being used only for industrial purposes and technical classes. The young men are boarded in three houses, and the girls in a Home. On two days a week evening continuation classes are held. There are 34 pupils undergoing technical industrial training, and 33 adults in the workshops. The sales amounted to £5,098, being an increase of more than £300 over last year. Weaving has been recently introduced for the women, and a hand-loom presented to the Institution, by Mr. William Harris. Grants amounting to £94 were made to old pupils, chiefly to purchase material. The Committee received from the Government Inspector the following eminently satisfactory report for the 14 months which elapsed between the 1st May 1900, and the closing of the School:—"It is very gratifying to be able to report that this Institution has done some excellent work during the past 14 months. A bright and cheerful tone throughout the School gives evidence of kind and considerate treatment on the part of Mr. Pine and the staff, and a full appreciation on the part of the pupils. The Institution is under active and intelligent management, and every subject of instruction has received successful attention."

Wakefield. The first annual meeting of the Wakefield Workshops for the Blind was held on November 5th, under the presidency of the Mayor. Mr. Pine, of the Nottingham Institution for the Blind, and Mr. Norwood, of the Yorkshire School, delivered addresses. Miss Edith Wright, the indefatigable Hon. Secretary, read an interesting report for the year ended June 30th, which shows distinct progress and growth.

The workshops are at 158, Westgate, and the sale room at 14A, Southgate. Five and sometimes six men are engaged at basket-making, and one woman and two girls at chair-caning. The cash statement is for only six months, and shows that the sales amounted to £80, and that £32 were paid in wages to the blind workers. The Home Teaching branch still continues its work of visiting about 60 blind people.

Dr. S. G. HOWE.

We have received from Boston, U.S.A., an interesting Monograph recording the celebration in that city on November 11th, 1901, of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, the great pioneer of later methods in the education of the Blind. He was perhaps best known to the world at large as the successful teacher of the blind and deaf mute Laura Bridgman, but his wonderful career was well and briefly summarized in one of the newspapers recording the celebration as follows: "Trace along his biography, and see how its different chapters record each his giving his life to somebody. Chapter I, to the Greeks, *i.e.* the Greek war with the Turks for independence, chapter II, to the blind, chapter III, to the insane, chapter IV, to John Brown and the slaves, chapter V. to the idiot, chapter VI, to the scientific classification of all the charities of Massachusetts." He was the first director of the Perkins Institution for the Blind, which he served for 43 years. Wherever he found the helpless, the unfit, the mentally feeble, or the criminal, there he devoted his great powers to helping them out of the slough of despond, and training them to become as far as possible useful instead of burdensome members of the great human family. His success was in most cases marvellous, and at a meeting held in his honoured memory his "children" with one consent arose and called him blessed. Helen Keller, a case very similar to Laura Bridgman's, wrote a letter which was read to the meeting by Dr. Hale. In it she said, "I hope you will express the heartfelt gratitude of those who owe their education

their opportunities, their happiness, to him who opened the eyes of the blind and gave the dumb lip language. Sitting here in my study, surrounded by my books, enjoying the sweet and intimate companionship of the great and the wise, I am trying to realize what my life might have been if Dr. Howe had failed in the great task God gave him to perform. If he had not taken upon himself the responsibility of Laura Bridgman's education . . . should I be a sophomore at Radcliffe College to-day . . . Who can say? . . . I think only those who have escaped that death-in-life existence from which Laura Bridgman was rescued can realize how isolated, how shrouded in darkness, how cramped by its own impotence is a soul without thought, or faith, or hope . . . Thanks to our friend and helper, our world lies upward, the length and breadth and sweep of the heavens are ours."

A noble testimony truly, and only one among thousands.

Dr. Howe was born November 10th, 1801, and died in 1876, The celebration was held on November 11th, because November 10th fell on a Sunday.

BLIND COLLECTORS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

In connection with the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, blind men collect the subscriptions, and the Superintendent has issued a leaflet with information on the subject, from which the following is culled:—

"In the selection of Collectors great discrimination will have to be exercised, but it will no doubt be possible, in the majority of cases, to fill such positions from those already in the employment of the Institution. A good address, energy and perseverance, the intelligence to discern the just mean of insistence, and the ability to mark the exact line between abruptness and diffusiveness, are qualifications which go to make an ideal Collector.

From a district map and from local time-tables we drew out a list of the places which each of our Collectors was to work, being careful to prevent overlapping, observing that the places followed each other in proper sequence, and, generally, arranging that the Collector should have the minimum of trouble, and that each district should be worked on the most economical lines. From a Directory we compiled lists of the Nobility, Gentry, and Clergy in each of these places, and to each of the persons whose names appeared on these lists we sent, by post in advance, an intimation of our Collector's prospective call, and an appeal for aid.

Our Collectors are furnished with a distinctive uniform having on the lapels of the jacket and on the cap the words:—ROYAL GLASGOW ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, and are accompanied by sighted boys as guides. They carry a Book in which Subscribers enter their names and addresses and the amounts of their Subscriptions. Attached to the Book is an 'Identification Card.' This is a limp card after the style of a railway season ticket, measuring extended 6 in. by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in., and folded 3 in. by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. On the outsides are the words:—"ROYAL GLASGOW ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND—COLLECTOR'S IDENTIFICATION CARD." On the inside left-hand page is affixed a $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. photograph of the Collector, to which his name and the address of the Institution are appended. On the inside right-hand page is the following:—"Subscribers and the public generally are respectfully advised that Subscriptions intended for the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind should be paid only on presentation of this Card—which is the only authority to uplift Subscriptions on behalf of the funds of this Institution—and to the Collector whose photograph is shewn on the next page." This authority is signed by the Chairman of Directors and by the Superintendent. Besides being an authority to uplift moneys, this Card is a proof of the Collector's *bona fides*.

We pay our Collectors twenty shillings per week on an average as wages, and we pay the guides' wages; also, of course, railway, steamboat, and coach fares, and we allow as 'food-money' $1/6$ per day when the Collector is able to return to his

own home each evening, and 3/- per day for food and lodging when he has to stay from home. A commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is paid on all sums over a total collection of £400 per annum.

Each Collector reports himself at Headquarters every Saturday to deliver his collections, to have the names and amounts transferred from his book to the official list, and to have his book initialled, giving him clearance to that date.

Last year our Subscriptions totalled £2,972, in the collecting of which three blind men were employed during the whole year, and one during six months. We have no sighted Collectors.

Our latest departure is to employ a Collector to canvass all the public works in and around Glasgow to secure a share in the amounts subscribed by workmen for disbursement among the local Charities. Our efforts in this direction have been so successful that we have already to record that, for the six months ended 31st May last, our collections of Employees Subscriptions have exceeded by £50 the previous highest record for any whole year in the history of the Institution.

Apart from the monetary aspect, there are many advantages to be derived from this branch of work. It employs blind people. It advertises, and stimulates an interest in the work of the Institution, which advertisement induces orders for goods which the blind manufacture, and may cause the Institution to be remembered in the wills of the benevolent.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE BLIND.

The Brussels Congress on the Blind.

SIR,—I am asked by Herr Moldenhawer, of the Institution for the Blind at Copenhagen, to correct what he states is a slight error in my report on the above Congress, which was published in the last number of THE BLIND. It is in regard to the

industries taught and carried on at that Institution. In preparing the report of the Congress, much correspondence was entailed afterwards in order to obtain correct information, and I wrote to Herr Moldenhawer for a summary of what he stated at the Congress was carried on at Copenhagen. My report reads "that music and piano tuning give the best results for the blind in Denmark, but that they also carry on at Copenhagen, basket-making, shoemaking, brush-making, and chair-seating." Herr Moldenhawer wishes me to say that so far as *Trades* are concerned, basket-making, shoemaking, and brush-making are most *successful*, but it should have been mentioned that they also carry on ropemaking, which has been an industry there since 1858, when the new Blind Institution was opened. Herr Moldenhawer also points out that I have omitted what he stated to me as to his belief in the wisdom of the blind learning two trades, and that my words on page 363 appear to disagree with that principle. My friend will, I am sure, pardon me in the omission when I say that the full report of the Congress, published in French, which is just issued, is a volume of 388 pages, and it was with the utmost difficulty I could keep my paper to its present limits. I agree with Herr Moldenhawer, that "in small countries, especially where the blind are obliged to work on their own account," it may be necessary, or advantageous to have a second industry to fall back upon in case this chief trade or employment does not afford them sufficient work. I am of opinion, however, that speaking generally, and I venture to think English managers will agree with me, that the time afforded is often none too long for a blind man to learn his trade, and, that like sighted people, he had better strive to master one trade as thoroughly as may be, rather than attempt to gain an imperfect knowledge of two.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

H. W. P. PINE,

Superintendent and Secretary,

Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham.

December 19th, 1902.

13, Crick Road, Oxford,

December 19th, 1902.

To the Editor of THE BLIND.

DEAR SIR,—Two questions have been raised in a recent number of "Morning" which should be of some interest to the Blind. The one is as to whether there is a sixth sense by which the Blind may avoid obstacles. The other is as to whether embossed literature for the Blind should be sent post free or the rate simply cheapened.

As you will soon be going to press and I am now extremely busy, I cannot now discuss these problems, but I should suggest a discussion thereupon in your valuable columns.

Yours faithfully,

WALTER H. DIXSON.

RECENT LITERATURE.

During the past few months the following works have been stereotyped in Braille by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

	s.	d.
Uncle Tom's Cabin, (interpointed) 8 vols. each	3	0
Dickens' The Cricket on the Hearth (interlined) 2 vols.	3	0
Goldsmith's The Vicar of Wakefield (interlined) vols. i. and ii. each	3	0
Goldsmith's The Vicar of Wakefield (interlined) vol. iii.	4	0
Elizabeth Wetherell's The Christmas Stocking (uncontracted and interpointed)	1	3
Braille Almanack for 1903. post free	1	0
Musings for Quiet Hours (uncontracted and inter- pointed)	1	9
Scripture Union Portions for 1903	0	3

In Moon's type by Moon's Society, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton:—

	s.	d.
Britain's King and Queen, vol. i. and ii. each	4	6
The Psalms in Tamil, in 3 vols. „	3	9
The Book of Job (re-stereotyped)	3	9

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 22.

APRIL 20TH, 1903.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 15th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Hon. Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

So much important and interesting information has come to hand during the last quarter that although the usual number of pages is exceeded this time, much has been unavoidably crowded out, and Mr. Tate's promised paper has had to be postponed until the July number. The lucid Report of the Committee appointed at the Conference held last year, on "Defective Blind Children"; the excellent account by Miss Petty, of the blind children under the London School Board; and the valuable report on "The Blind in Egypt," written especially for this paper by one who has studied the subject very deeply, will each and all be found, it is hoped, very interesting to our readers, as well as the information given in regard to the new scheme for Henshaw's Blind Asylum, and sundry paragraphs on various subjects.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. Many thanks are due to several of our readers for kindly sending back copies of "The Blind," in response to the request in paragraph 8 of our last number. Mr. Yoshimoto now has numbers 1 to 20 complete, and is most grateful to the givers.

2. A letter was received by us just as we went to press last time from Miss Aston, Secretary of the Association for the Advancement of the Blind in Australia, in which she says that through the effort of the Association, all literature in Braille and Moon types will be carried free by post throughout the whole of the Australian Commonwealth, from the 1st of November last.

3. The 3rd edition of the pamphlet "Information with regard to Institutions for the Blind, &c." is now ready, price 4d. post free, and can be obtained at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. At the same office, copies of the official Report of the Conference held last April, can be obtained, price 2/6, or by post 2/10.

4. Sir Ernest Cassell has made a noble gift of £40,000 for the relief of ophthalmia and eye diseases in Egypt. The gift is the outcome of a proposal made by Mr. Kenneth Scott, that an Ophthalmic Research Hospital should be opened in Cairo. We have read with interest the admirable arrangements, carefully worked out in detail by Mr. Scott, for such a hospital, and, therefore, we regret to see in the newspapers that the money will probably be employed in a "travelling Dispensary," when, we fear, it will soon be frittered away, instead of in a permanent hospital.

5. The Home for Blind Women at Hull is henceforth to be known as "The Rockcliffe Home for Blind Women," in order to perpetuate Dr. Rockcliffe's energetic and invaluable services to the Hull Institution for the Blind, extending over twenty years. A resolution to this effect was passed at the annual meeting held on March 11th, and it was stated therein that the Home "has been founded and mainly freed from debt by Dr. Rockcliffe's voluntary and ungrudging services."

6. Steps have been taken towards the formation of a Home Teaching Society for the county of Oxfordshire. Miss Heberden has been most indefatigable, and has brought together

a committee, including the Rural Dean of Oxford, the Bursar of Worcester, and a representative of the C.O.S. According to the census there are 160 blind in the county, as against 186 in 1891, but it must be borne in mind that the total population has decreased from 185,000 to 181,000.

7. We are pleased to hear of extension of work on behalf of the Blind in Exeter, by the proposed formation of a Home Teaching Society, and in Sheffield by the establishment of a pension fund for the local Blind.

8. A committee of the Corporation of Bradford are making enquiries into the position of blind persons in that city, to see if some improvement can be effected in their circumstances. We are pleased to know that Mr. W. H. Tate, than whom no one takes greater interest in the blind in Bradford, has been appointed one of the members of the committee to assist in the enquiry. Mr. Tate also served on the committee which enquired into the circumstances of the blind beggars in that city, and it was found that only four belonged to Bradford.

9. The Christmas Tree Festival of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, was held on January 28th, and was most successful and enjoyable. The Chair was taken by Dr. W. H. Cummings, Principal of the Guildhall School of Music, and the tree was unveiled by the Hon. Mrs. Lawson Johnston. Several songs and pianoforte pieces were rendered with the usual admirable effect and precision. The programme included a cantata, "The Story of Bethlehem" (West), and a part song, "The Fisher Boy," by the same composer; "Cradle Song" (Smart); "Valse Carnavalesque" (Chaminade), &c. The chairman in his address pleaded earnestly for more active interest on the part of the Government in the cause of the education of the Blind. "The cause of education is in the air," he said, "and it will be a cruel wrong if the Blind are left behind."

10. Essex Hall was the scene of a very merry party on the afternoon of January 23rd, when all the children from the Schools

for the Blind, under the London School Board, met together for their Annual Treat. The first brake full of happy excited children arrived about 2.30 p.m., and by 3 o'clock every one was seated listening eagerly to the entertainment provided for them. At 4, tea was served, and by the aid of many willing helpers, the hungry little ones were soon all happily engaged. After tea the Hall was full of the sound of crackers, and then a distribution of presents, dresses, blouses, coats, and gloves, dolls, toys, &c., rejoiced every heart. During the afternoon a gramophone played at intervals, and the children echoed with delight the "Laughing Song." The cheers which filled the Hall when the children were asked whether they had enjoyed themselves, were something to be remembered. This treat is arranged by the Hoxton Schools Society, whose Hon. Sec. is the indefatigable Miss Rose Petty, Inspector of Homes of boarded-out children, under the London School Board. The first one was inaugurated by Miss Honnor Morten in 1901, as Warden of the Hoxton Settlement. The Kyrle Society always gives the entertainment, and the "Westminster Gazette" provides the tea. This year Miss Taylor, of the Sunbeam Mission, brought a cracker, box of chocolates, and a scent fountain for each child. Through the kindness of Miss Gray and Mrs. Hartzthorne, a gramophone was obtained from the Gramophone and Typewriter Company. Brakes and presents come from the friends of the Society, and several of the toys and garments come this year from the *Girls' Realm* Guild. Amongst those present were:—Mr. King, Senior Chief Inspector of Schools; Dr. and Mrs. Eichholz, Miss Honnor Morten, Mr. A. B. Russell, M.L.S.B., and Mrs. Russell, Dr. Kerr, L.S.B. Medical Officer, Mr. Pett Ridge, and Mr. H. J. Wilson.

3. } 11. Mr. Horace Watling and Mr. Thomas Gregory, students at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, have passed the Associate Examination of the College of Organists.

12. It is most encouraging to those interested in the musical education of the Blind, to hear what a great man in the domain of music, Mr. Alfred Gaul, the well known composer, has

to say as to the remarkable performance of a blind man in a concert given at Walsall. Mr. Robbins, an ex-pupil of the Birmingham Institution, accompanied on the piano a Cantata of an hour and a half's duration, and Mr. Gaul considered it the most extraordinary evidence of musical memory that had ever come under his notice. Mr. Robbins had also trained the chorus of about 50 voices, and though from want of time Mr. Gaul was unable to hold a rehearsal, the whole thing went with the most perfect smoothness and accuracy, and in the matter of expression, with carefulness and delicacy. We must congratulate Mr. Robbins on this highly complimentary opinion of his musical abilities.

13. Mr. Arthur Copland, trained at the Edinburgh School for the Blind, was appointed last February to the Parish Church, Penpont, as organist and choirmaster, in succession to Mr. Wm. Halliday, also trained at Edinburgh, who has obtained an excellent appointment at the Cape. Mr. Copland gained his appointment in open competition with sighted candidates.

14. It was a great disappointment that the Bishop of Ripon and Mrs. Boyd Carpenter were unable to be present on February 9th, at the opening of the new building in connection with and adjoining the Bradford Institution for the Blind. The Bishop's place was taken by Archdeacon Danks, who declared the new building open, and strongly recommended the public to support the Institution, which represented "a charity of an unimpeachable character." The Committee are to be heartily congratulated on having carried out such important alterations and additions to the Institution. The cost has been upwards of £2,000.

15. The following books in Braille have been added to the Free Library at Oxford:—Liddon, "The Divinity of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (Bampton Lectures); "Select chapters of Aristotle's Politics" (translated), volumes 1 and 2; Gardner, "Documents of the Puritan Revolution," and Gardner's Introduction to English History, volumes 4 and 5.

16. In *Hora Jucunda* for this month there begins a new serial story, "The Hound of the Baskervilles," by Sir Conan Doyle, for which he and the Editor of the *Strand Magazine* have kindly given their special permission.

17. A new publication, *The Braille Review*, was issued on the 1st January last, by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, W. It is a monthly paper of eight pages, printed in ordinary type, and the subscription is 1/- a year, post free. It gives a list of recent Braille publications, and of blind people seeking employment, and some "notes by the way."

18. William Parry, a resident of Blænavon, Monmouthshire, blind from childhood, has had a useful life of 71 years. As a screw turner in the ironworks, he has been regularly employed up to the last two years, and has been able to maintain himself most respectably. He has taught in the Sunday School for 60 years, having first taken a class when 11 years of age, and for 30 years he was a member of the Church Choir. He is a bachelor and has no near relatives, but is regarded by a family of the same name, with whom he lives, as one of themselves.

19. We have received a copy of the 71st Annual Report of the Trustees of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind. It is quite a large volume of 280 pages with excellent illustrations, and the Report by Mr. M. Anagnos, the well known director, is as interesting as ever, especially what he has to say about the marvellous success achieved in the education of five blind deaf-mutes.

INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES.

Bradford. The Forty-second Annual Meeting of the Bradford Incorporated Institution for the Blind was held at the Institution, on March 3rd, when the mayor presided. Seventy-seven blind workpeople have been regularly employed

and the sales amounted to £12,631. There are 33 annuitants receiving aid from local funds, and £480 were paid in addition to supplement wages. The new buildings and extensions were opened on February 9th, and cost over £2000, of which about £400 have still to be raised. The new building is five storeys in height, and provides a men's workroom, a showroom, a women's workroom, a men's dining room, &c.

Bristol. The Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Association for Home Teaching and Industrial Employment of the Blind was read at a meeting held at the Institution, 65a, Park Street, Bristol, on March 6th, when the report for the year ended December 31st, 1902, was presented and passed. Three blind teachers are employed in the Home Teaching Branch, and only women and girls in the Industrial Branch. The sales during 1902 amounted to £689 and £248 were paid in wages to blind workwomen in addition to £148 to the three blind teachers.

Exeter. The Sixty-third Annual Report of the West of England Institution for the Blind, St. David's Hill, Exeter, was presented at the Annual General Meeting, held on February 16th. On December 31st, 1902, there were 47 resident pupils and 16 journeymen. One of the pupils, Frederick Coaker, passed Grade II. (pianoforte), and Grade II. (organ) with honours in the Examination of the Incorporated Society of Musicians. The sales amounted to £955, and the blind workers were paid £361 in wages and a supplement of £48.

Hull. The Thirty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Hull Blind Institution was held on March 11th, at the Institution, Kingston Square, and the report for the year ended December 31st, 1902, was adopted. The report is illustrated and gives full particulars of all the various branches by which the Blind in Hull are assisted. There is also a summary of the meetings held at the Conference in April last year. An important event was the endowment of the Home for blind women (the sum amounts to £1725) which was due to Dr. Rockliffe's unceasing efforts. There are 10 inmates in the Home, 22 men

and 6 women employed at the Workshop, and the blind visitor visits the rest of the Blind. The sales amounted to £1432, and the loss on trading account to £95. The Sick Benefit and Entertainment Branch gave material assistance to many of the Blind.

Manchester. The Sixty-third Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors of Henshaw's Blind Asylum was held on February 4th, when the Report for the year ended December 31st, 1902, was adopted. The report contains a complete copy of the new scheme sanctioned by the Charity Commissioners, and also a report of Mr. Platt-Higgins' speech on April 28th, 1902, when the new scheme was adopted. On December 31st, there were in the Institution 189 inmates, including 84 children. Thirteen pupils passed the Examination of the Incorporated Society of Music; £1,206 were given to ex-pupils and outside Blind during the year. There were 40 men and 10 women employed in the workshops. The sale of goods amounted to £5,175, and a subsidy of £188 was paid to the blind workpeople. The surplus expenditure on the workshops was £558. A good handbill on Prevention of Blindness accompanies the report.

Reading. The Tenth Annual Report of the Reading Blind Aid Society, established 1893, for the year ended January 31st, 1903, has been issued, and shows that the 40 adult Blind in the town are visited by lady visitors and receive regular payments according to their respective needs. There is an endowment fund, of which the interest last year amounted to £48, and out of it nine blind persons were paid £5 each. The Hon. Treasurer is Mr. Hugh E. Walford, Pattingham, London Road, Reading.

Sheffield. The Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind, was held at the Cutler's Hall, on February 13th, when Mr. Samuel Roberts, M.P., presided, and the report of the year ended December 31st, 1902, was presented and approved. The Institution comprises a school, outdoor workshops and retail shop, a home mission and a lending

library and cottage homes. The report shows marked progress and good work done in all the branches, and the Committee recommend a pension fund to be started for Sheffield blind persons. In the school there was the full complement of 70 pupils (35 boys and 35 girls). In the workshop the sales amounted to £2,577; £757 were paid to blind workers and also a bonus of £125.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON DEFECTIVE BLIND CHILDREN.

At the Conference for the welfare of the Blind convened in April, 1902, by the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, the following resolution was passed:—

“That the following be formed a Committee to consider what steps should be taken to secure that sufficient provision be made for defective blind children, to issue a report on the subject, and to take steps to carry out any recommendations which they may submit, viz., the Hon. Maude Lawrence (London School Board), Miss Douglas Townsend (National Association for the Welfare of the Feeble-minded), Dr. Francis Warner, Mr. Wade Deacon (Liverpool School for the Blind), Mr. C. S. Loch (Secretary of the London Charity Organisation Society).”

The Committee have accepted the following as a definition of the phrase “defective” children, viz., “Children not being imbecile, and not being merely dull or backward, who, by reason of mental or physical defects are incapable of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary public elementary schools, but are not incapable by reason of such defect of receiving benefit in special classes or schools”—(Elementary Education (Defective Children) Act, 1899—62-3 Vic., cap. 32). And the word “Blind” the Committee would define in accordance with the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893—56-7 Vic., cap. 42, as “Too blind to read the ordinary school books used by children.”

Yet, after all, the word "defective" must remain rather vague. To ensure that it is not used in too vague a sense administratively, the Committee suggest that no children be sent to an Institution for defective blind children, until after they have attended a special class or school for the Blind, and have been certified by the Teacher and the Medical Officer as unsuitable for education at such classes or schools.

As in the case of other defective children a double problem has to be considered—the education of the child up to 16, while it is still under the control of the education authorities, and after 16, when, unless some special provision is made, or there is a good home where special care will be devoted to the child, the good results of the education up to that period may be lost or frustrated.

In dealing with the question of the care of the "defective" Blind after the age of 16, the Committee have passed beyond the limits of the reference made to them. They thought, however, that they would be pardoned for including in the report a subject in many ways so germane to the reference.

UP TO SIXTEEN.

The Committee are unable to submit more than an approximate estimate of the number of defective blind children under the age of 16. So far as they can ascertain of 223 blind children on the rolls of the London School Board, 20—11 boys and 9 girls—or it is estimated not more than ten per cent. are defective. Perhaps in the whole country there are as many as 160 defective blind children.

By the Act of 1893 the school authority has to make efficient and suitable provision for the education of blind children up to the age of 16; and for this purpose they may establish or acquire and maintain a school, certified for the purpose by the Board of Education, or they may contribute to such a school under conditions approved by the Board of Education, and arrange for boarding out any blind or deaf child in a home conveniently near to the certified school where the child is receiving elementary education. The Act of 1899 makes similar provision for defective children.

For defective blind children (who may be said to come under both these Acts) no provision has yet been made. Their number is comparatively few, and they are scattered. Only in a large population such as that within the area of the school authority in the Metropolis, is it possible for one such authority to maintain a home for these children alone. Hence, if the need is to be met for the country at large, special provision will have to be made on behalf of the school authorities generally, and by association between them.

As to the nature of the accommodation to be provided, the Committee have endeavoured to collect the most trustworthy evidence. On their behalf the Secretary to the Gardner Trust kindly issued to Institutions for the Blind, a circular asking the opinion of Committees of Management on two or three main points: (1) whether in a voluntary school for the Blind, a department might advantageously be formed with a class for defective children not more than six or seven in number; or (2) whether it would be desirable to promote the establishment of one or two boarding homes and schools, on the understanding that these homes should be available for a large number of local school authorities who might happen to have to deal with cases of this kind.

It was also suggested as a third course that these two plans might be adopted concurrently.

The circular was also sent to one or two School Boards. The replies may thus be summarised:—

(1) The London School Board have considered the desirability of removing from the ordinary schools for the Blind those children who are mentally defective, or who are blind and deaf; and have agreed that separate provision should be made for such children in a residential school. They have brought the matter under the notice of the Board of Education, who have replied that they sanction the proposal of the School Board to provide a residential school for such children. The School Board are now endeavouring to secure suitable premises in which to deal with these children.

(2) The following Institutions were definitely in favour of a separate Institution for the defective Blind :

The London Society for Teaching the Blind.

The West of England Institution for the Blind, Exeter.

The House Governor of the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

(3) On behalf of the Hants and Isle of Wight School and Home for the Blind, the Hon. Secretary wrote on the whole in favour of the plan of establishing one or two homes and schools for dealing separately with these cases ; and from the

(4) Leeds School Board a resolution was received stating that " while up to the present that Board had been able to deal with the blind children residing in their own district, they were of opinion that defective blind children might with advantage be dealt with in a special home."

(5) Mr. F. J. Munby writing from York says : " I should hesitate to ask any school to create such an additional department, but if any one or more of those who have had the courage to undertake this work, are able and willing to extend it, it should be placed wholly in their hands and receive as much support as can be had from the rates and taxes, always of course preserving the eleemosynary character of the work, that the children may not fall into the hands of purely official people."

(6) The Superintendent of the General Institution for the Blind at Birmingham, wrote that, defining defective blind children as " blind children who also suffer from some mental or bodily affliction as well as from blindness," they are of opinion, that it would be objectionable to form classes of six or seven children in existing voluntary schools for their education. The existing schools were not structurally suited for defective blind children, and as small numbers of children could not be properly classified for teaching purposes they were in favour of the establishment of a centrally situated institution designed to accommodate all the defective blind children in England and Wales, and they suggested that the Institution should, if necessary, be of a voluntary class, so as to be in a position to continue the education and training of its pupils after the age of 16. They

believed that with the special training these children have, some of them at any rate would probably so improve in mind or body as to be fit to be transferred to ordinary schools for the blind.

On the other hand :

(7) The Committee of the School for the Indigent Blind, Hardman Street, Liverpool, is of opinion that most defective blind children can be dealt with in an ordinary school for the blind. "The school with its Medical Officer and Teachers may be trusted to classify these children, and when necessary form special classes for them. They do not appear to be numerous ; and by associating them with ordinary children especially out of school hours there is a greater chance of improvement than there would be if they were herded together in a separate Institution. They think, however, that there will remain a small number of very defective blind children for whom perhaps a central Institution would be best and most economical."

Under the present Code, up to the age of 16, two-thirds of the expense of the maintenance and education of these children may be met out of the educational grant, and it is urged by this School that the existence of defective children, including deaf and blind children, should be recognised by H. M. Inspector, and that a grant should be paid for them if he report that they are being educated as well as is reasonably possible.

(8) The Superintendent of the Blind School, Broomhill, Sheffield, writes that they have several defectives there who they think make little or no progress whatever, mentally or manually, but are nevertheless benefitting physically to such an extent as to warrant their retention so long as they have room for them. They cannot retain, however, those who suffer from functional derangement after about six months' trial. The defectives are not treated separately, but mingle with others as equals. The Government Grant on such has been allowed on the ground that they have made *some* progress, if not mentally or manually, at least physically.

(9) The Chairman of the South Devon and Cornwall Institution for the Instruction and Employment of the Blind, Plymouth, writes that the Committee are not prepared to advocate

separate institutions for this purpose, as they consider the companionship and emulation aroused by the more favoured children greatly assists the weaker minded children. In several instances the more favoured children have taken great interest in, and pains with, the more feeble ones with marked success. It has been found that some of these children are helped in school, but are not able to learn any trade; while others are just the reverse; and in some sad cases no help of any kind in the way of education has apparently been afforded, but happily this last class is very small. The committee has appointed a special Matron for the care of these children."

(10) The Swansea and South Wales Institution share this view; the Hon. Sec. writes "that he does not think it is desirable that a separate institution for the education and training of defective blind children should be established."

It will be seen from the above statements that there is much division of opinion on the question whether or not a separate institution should be established for these children; but considering the peculiar difficulties of these cases, and the hardship that at present arises from the want of provision for them, the Committee are of opinion that, in spite of the great care bestowed on this class in those institutions for the Blind, in which they are now sometimes admitted, there is at the present time great need for the creation of a special institution for defective blind children, available for school authorities throughout England and Wales.

While in the Metropolis, and possibly some of the County or Borough areas, in which there is a large population, the local authority may find it convenient to make their own arrangements for this class, yet for the country at large one or more Special Homes for them would be of the greatest service.

AFTER THE AGE OF 16.

Before concluding this Report the Committee desire to submit some of the difficulties connected with the cognate question—the care of the defective Blind after the age of 16. It is not too much to say that at the present time there is no legislative provision for this class, except in so far as the

Metropolitan Asylums Board may deal with them within the Metropolitan area. as sick, insane, or infirm, or other class or classes of the poor chargeable in Unions or parishes in the Metropolis. But no accommodation for them has been especially provided either for London or elsewhere. At present these defective blind persons have no alternative but to remain sometimes greatly neglected, in the homes of their parents or relatives, or with any one who will take care of them, or drift into the Workhouse.

The Committee are of opinion that provision should be made at the charge of the County or Borough, for the permanent care of the defective blind persons over the age of 16, and that such persons should not be provided for as paupers under the Poor-law Act, and its amending Acts.

The Committee are also of opinion that, as suggested by the General Institution for the Blind at Birmingham, the provision made for defective blind children should be linked to the permanent provision, whatever it may be, that is made for defective blind persons after the age of 16.

The Committee believe that the most suitable method for providing for the defective Blind before and after school age, would be to secure for their use an estate sufficiently large to allow of the erection, as the demand for accommodation may necessitate, of comparatively small houses, to contain 10 or 12 inmates each. On this plan, the inmate could be cared for and instructed and occupied both up to the age of 16 and upwards. And they could from time to time be classified in school and permanent homes, as might be found most conducive to their well being.

In sum the Committee recommend

(1) That for defective blind children up to the age of 16, who are unsuitable for education in special classes or for admission to Homes for the Blind, special provision should be made for education and maintenance on the lines hereinafter suggested.

That, to ensure that only children clearly suitable for treatment at an Institution as "defective" be sent to them, it is desirable that all blind children considered to be defective or

likely to prove so, should first be sent to an ordinary school or class for the Blind, and, after trial, should be certified by the Teacher and the Medical Officer as unsuitable for retention in the school or class.

(2) That as the number of these defective blind children is probably not large, powers should be given to the County and Borough School Authorities to associate for the purpose of making this provision, and for the education and maintenance of children at the Institution or Institutions so provided.

(3) That provision be made by County and Borough Councils for the care and maintenance of the defective Blind after the age of 16.

(4.) That both for blind defective children or for blind defective adults provision should be made at a colony or settlement in the country, where, after the age of 16, the inmates can remain permanently.

(5) That the charges for education and maintenance at the associated Institution or colony should be considered to come within the lines of the Acts 1893 and 1899, and payable by the Education Authorities, and that charges after the age of 16 be payable by the County or Borough Councils.

(6) That with a view to the carrying out of the other recommendations, the Committee further recommend:

(a) That support be given to any proposal to the appointment of a Royal Commission to consider and report on the provision for the mentally defective, including in that class adult imbeciles and the feeble-minded as defective, but excluding lunatics; and that the need of further provision for defective blind children and adults be brought to the notice of such a Commission, if it be appointed.

(b) That a petition embodying the above recommendations be drafted and circulated to Schools and Homes for the Blind in the hope that they will sign the petition, and that the questions discussed in the report may with their assistance and approval be submitted with greater weight of authority to the Board of Education and the Home Office.

(c) That the Committee be authorised to take these and other steps to give effect to the recommendations of their report.

CONDITION OF THE BLIND IN EGYPT.

/In Egypt the Blind are very numerous in comparison with what is found in other countries, and although no exact statistics are at present obtainable on this point, it is computed that the proportion is at least one totally blind person to every 50 of the population. The cause of this is principally the result of acute ophthalmia occurring in infancy, and is fostered by the superstitious observance which prevents the mothers from washing their children from the time of birth until they are two years old, at which late date only they are weaned. There is also a great deal of infection carelessly and ignorantly conveyed direct from eye to eye, by means of unwashed fingers, and this is accountable for the occurrence of much more eye-disease than any that may be caused by the proverbial flies; the latter do not settle on healthy eyes, but are simply attracted by the discharge from the eyes when the disease has already been established there, in the same way that vultures are seen to be attracted by and flock around anything which is weakly or dying.

The only employment followed by the Blind both Mahomedan and Coptic (or native Christian), and that only to a limited extent, is recitation aloud—the former repeating portions of the Koran at funerals, and the latter chanting the church-ritual in their services; the blind girls and women are without occupation. Practically no education is given to the Blind as a class, and anything which they learn has to be acquired orally by frequent repetition. The Blind were not always so completely neglected, as the native Ecclesiastical Authorities (“Wakf,”) gave an annual grant of £2000 for the continued maintenance of a “School for the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb,” in Cairo, which taught about 80 day pupils; the latter years of the school were passed under the Ministry of Education, and it was ultimately discontinued.

It will be easily understood how such a condition of affairs appealed to the late Dr. T. R. Armitage, and explains his motive in trying to establish some proper means for affording the Blind in Egypt the necessary scholastic instruction and other training. In Egypt as in other countries, it is occasionally very difficult,

and takes some time, to start any enterprise such as this on a satisfactory and practical footing, and it was left for the late Mrs. T. R. Armitage to be the means of successfully carrying out her husband's wishes in this particular.

The Institution for the Blind was established at Zeitoun, Cairo, early in the year 1901, through funds provided by the late Mrs. T. R. Armitage, who was then Hon. Secretary of the British and Foreign Blind Association, London. Dr. T. R. Armitage, who founded the latter, visited Egypt with Mrs. Armitage eleven years earlier—in January, 1890, partially with the view of helping the Blind, who although they form a numerous class in this country, have received but little attention educationally since the "School for the Blind, and the Deaf and Dumb" ceased to exist in 1889. Dr. Armitage could not definitely effect anything at the time, and died later in the same year from the result of an accident at his home in Ireland.

In 1900, Mrs. Armitage asked Mr. Kenneth Scott to prepare a scheme for the Education and Welfare of the Blind in Egypt, on lines suggested to her. This, through the British and Foreign Blind Association, was submitted to her late Majesty Queen Victoria, who graciously commanded it to be sent to the Khedive through the Foreign Office, and His Highness, in mark of approbation and encouragement, generously gave a handsome donation towards its realisation. The scheme was eventually carried out in the spring of 1901, and as ill health prevented Mrs. Armitage conducting this personally, Mr. Kenneth Scott visited Egypt in an honorary capacity for the purpose: a suitable house and garden were purchased through the kind services of Mr. Carton de Wiart, and all other arrangements were duly made, Mr. W. R. W. Gardner, M.A., accepting the post of Principal of the Institution.

The object of the Institution, which is wholly unsectarian in character, is to educate and train the blind, mentally and physically and in industrial occupations, and at the same time to improve their moral standard, so that eventually they may become in great measure, or even completely, self-supporting.

The Institution began its first session of work in September

1901, and quickly received its full complement of 10 children ; these are boys, all totally blind, their ages averaging about nine years old ; free board and education are provided for them, and their whole time, with the exception of regular holidays and vacations, is spent in the Institution. Mrs. Armitage's death occurring in November 1901, the work has since then been continued through the generosity of Mr. F. R. Armitage and Miss Armitage, her son and daughter, who have increased the provision for free pupils by adding two others to their number, thus making 12 free foundation scholars.

The Principal has the assistance of a blind teacher who was educated at Vienna, and the pupils are taught to read and write in the raised characters used by the Blind ; they also learn arithmetic, geography and other usual items, in all of which they make equal progress in Arabic and in English. Their physical culture is developed by gymnastic drill, and by daily walks over the adjoining desert. The pupils receive other training beyond their mere scholastic work ; as regards religious teaching, the Mahomedans receive instruction from one of their Sheikhs, whilst the Copts are similarly cared for by a special instructor. In manual work the boys have become adept at chair-caning, and have also made progress in ornamental basket-making ; other varieties of work are being prepared for them.

Besides this more ordinary routine, much has been accomplished by the Institution in other directions, during the 18 months since the date of opening. It has produced (printed and published) several useful and educational books in the raised (Braille) Arabic alphabet for the Blind, which is now recognised. A Coptic alphabet for the Blind has been evolved on the basis of the present Braille alphabet used for Greek, at the request of the Patriarch, so that the ancient language used in the church-ritual can be readily transcribed, thus facilitating the employment of the Coptic Blind in their Church services. The Hebrew alphabet for the Blind has also been defined. The Gospel of St. Mark has been rendered into Arabic Braille, with the assistance of Miss M. J. Lovell, of Jerusalem, in its transliteration, and has been printed in embossed characters to the

order of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Progress has also been made in the production of the Koran in the Arabic raised type for the Blind. All this special description of work is strictly confined, so far as regards the pupils, to those of the respective religious persuasions, but in every other study they mingle freely.

In this work of elaborating linguistic bases without which no real progress can be made, the Institution has received the helpful authority and co-operation of the Executive Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association, (206, Great Portland Street, London, W.). The question of a Universal Alphabet for the Blind, in Braille or other type, for which more than one system has been suggested for indiscriminate use by all nationalities, has received the full consideration of the highest authorities, but has had to be rejected on practical grounds, as valueless.

The Institution is open to visitors, whether tourists or residents, who may be interested in the work, on Thursday afternoons from 2—4 o'clock; it is four minutes walk from the Zeitoun Railway Station, and lies at the far end of the first opening to the left hand, in any of the roads leading down through the houses from the platform.

Trains start exactly at every hour and half hour from Pont-Limoun Station (Cairo), the journey occupying about 17 minutes. Zeitoun can also be reached by pleasant carriage drive which passes through Abbassieh on the way to Heliopolis.

The inclusive annual expenditure of the Institution is under £800, and so far, it has been at the sole charge of the late Mrs. T. R. Armitage, and subsequently at that of her family, but any help or participation, financial or otherwise, in this direction would be gladly welcomed, as it would enable the scope of the work to be enlarged and would encourage the feeling that a wider interest was being engendered in the condition of this numerous and hitherto helpless class in Egypt.

THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND UNDER THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

It is now nearly thirty years since the London School Board first undertook the special instruction of blind children. It was the first of the newly constituted School Boards which included this work in their plans for the education of the children of the people.

At the beginning there were no regular Centres, and the teachers appointed used to visit any Board School that had blind children in attendance, and once a week or so, gave them a lesson in reading, writing, &c. The rest of the school time seems to have been spent by the children in picking up what knowledge they could in the ordinary school.

In 1879, however, the first school for the Blind was opened, and others quickly followed. The children came to the Centres daily for instruction, and thus began the present system of bringing the children to school under the care of guides, by train, omnibus, &c. In spite of the daily coming and going, the percentage of attendance in the Blind Schools is good, and the journeying to and fro often stimulates a dull, lymphatic child, both physically and mentally.

Although the Centres were distributed in order to supply as far as possible each locality, there still remained a certain number of children who lived too far from school to attend every day from their own homes, and in accordance with the Act giving permission to School Boards to maintain as well as educate blind children, a system of boarding out was begun in 1894. Foster parents of the working class were found in the neighbourhood of the Schools, and the children placed with them. The homes are carefully chosen and frequently inspected, and the system works well. The foster mothers generally prove themselves real mothers to the children, and a mutual affection springs up which lasts long after the school days are over.

There are now in London eight Day Centres and two Residential Schools for the training of the Blind. In the latter the industrial training is begun.

The Day Centres are situated in populous districts, and are intended chiefly for the education of blind children from five to twelve years of age. The older children will in future enter the Residential Schools in order that more attention may be given to their industrial training.

Plans have been drawn for re-building or enlarging the Schools in order to bring them up to modern requirements. Much has been done already, and in a year or two all the old Centres will have been rebuilt, replaced, or enlarged.

Each Day Centre accomodates on an average about 25 pupils. The ordinary elementary subjects are taught, and various occupations are taken. Whenever it can be arranged, the boys who are over twelve years of age attend the Board's Manual Centres for Woodwork, and the girls attend the Cookery and Laundry Centres. The classes are small, so that individual attention can be given to each child. The result has proved satisfactory, and children and teachers are both enthusiastic.

Special attention is now being given to physical training. The Residential Schools are being supplied with fully equipped gymnasia. In the Day Centres, in addition to the ordinary drill, in all districts where it can be arranged, the children attend a gymnasium, and are taught by qualified instructors.

Formerly the School Board employed only blind teachers in their schools, but in 1901 a sighted teacher was appointed. Since then several others have begun work, and now there is a sighted teacher in each centre with the exception of two, and in the latter they will be appointed as soon as the Centres are enlarged. The blind teachers always had the assistance of sighted helpers, and these are still employed to give assistance with the children's dinners, &c.

In the Centres of the London School Board an arrangement is carried out which is, I believe, unique in the training of the Blind. On three half days a week, the blind children of the upper Standards attend the classes in the ordinary school. They carry their own books and frames with them and work with the sighted children. It is arranged for them to attend when the subjects taken are likely to be of interest and advantage to them. It is

believed to be good for the blind children to mix with normal children, and to have the opportunity of comparing their work with that of the latter.

The two Residential Schools were opened last year. They will provide for the industrial training of boys and girls of thirteen and upwards.

Elm Court, the Home for girls, has accomodation for twenty at present, but two cottages will be built on the site, bringing the numbers up to 45. The teaching is at present done on the premises, but a school is being built in the neighbourhood. Half the day is given to manual training, and the usual occupations are taken. Typewriting is taught, and an instructor gives training in basket making.

The boys' school was opened just before Christmas, at Linden Lodge, Wandsworth Common. There is accomodation for 30 resident pupils and 10 day scholars. Before the school was opened, the elder boys attended a Day Centre for special instruction in chair caning and basket work. This training is carried out more fully now with a larger staff. Mat and brush making will also be taught.

The School Board has just decided that music shall be taught in the Residential Schools, to any of the pupils who show a special talent. Should those boys or girls wish to take it up as a profession afterwards, they will be able to enter the training schools with a sound knowledge of at least the rudiments of their art.

Last year for the first time, the Technical Education Board of the London County Councail granted scholarships to blind boys and girls. Only two were offered, and the successful candidates are now at Leatherhead and at the Royal Normal College respectively. It is to be hoped that the Technical Education Board will see its way to grant a larger number in future.

After the children of normal mental capacity have been dealt with, there still remains a certain number who are, unfortunately, not fitted mentally to benefit by the same training. For those children special arrangements must be made, and as a beginning, the Board has decided to take two houses and adapt them for the

training of the mentally defective Blind. Each house will take 15 boys or girls respectively. Amongst those children there will be included those, happily few, who, in addition to their blindness, are also too deaf to profit by the instruction of the ordinary schools.

When all provision has been made for the education and training of the Blind during school age, there is still the after training to be thought of. Too often no further training has been given, or months have elapsed before arrangements could be made for entering suitable institutions. In future, however, all this will be considered by a new committee which has been formed on the initiative of the Hon. Maude Lawrence. It is to be called the London Blind and Deaf Children Scholarships and Apprenticing Committee. The members of the new Committee will be:—Mr. Wightman, of the L.C.C. Technical Education Board; Mr. W. B. Cochrane, of the Metropolitan Asylums Board; Mrs. Bernard Bosanquet, of the Charity Organization Society; Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr, of Gardner's Trust for the Blind; Rev. Canon Mansfield Owen, of the Royal Association in aid of the Deaf and Dumb; the following members of the London School Board:—Sir Charles Elliott, Hon. Rupert Guinness, Mrs. Homan, Mr. Hastings Jay, and the Chairman of the Special Schools Sub-committee (Hon. Maude Lawrence); and the following representative managers of Special Schools:—Mrs. Wilton Phipps, Miss Adler, and Miss M. M. Eve.

ROSE F. PETTY.

HENSHAW'S BLIND ASYLUM.

The new scheme from the Charity Commissioners has been issued in regard to the management of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, and a few of the points which vary or widen the provisions of the old scheme may be interesting to our readers.

To make the following remarks quite intelligible we give an outline of the points in the old scheme dated April, 1858, which have been altered, and then deal with the provisions of the new scheme.

The Board of Governors under the old scheme consisted of:—

- (1) The Trustees for the time being under Mr. Henshaw's will, of whom there were generally twelve.
- (2) The Trustees for the time being of the land, buildings and furniture, of whom there have been ten.
- (3) All Annual Subscribers of £2 2 0 or upwards for the current year.
- (4) All donors of £21 or upwards, and
- (5) The Executors of any party bequeathing £100 or upwards to the funds of the Charity: but the executors of such deceased person had to nominate one of their number to exercise their rights.

The Board of Governors at the Annual Meeting in February of each year were required to elect out of their own body, a Board of Management consisting of twelve persons, in addition to a President, a Vice-President and two honorary Auditors who were ex-officio members thereof.

The Board of Management thus comprising sixteen members were entrusted with the carrying out of the objects of the founder of the Charity as prescribed by the Court of Chancery, and submitted their proceedings to the Board of Governors at each Quarterly Meeting for confirmation.

The Board of Management selected from the applicants for admission such as they approved, and submitted the same to the Board of Governors for election by the votes of those present quarterly.

We now proceed to the new scheme sealed on 25th November, 1902, which by clause 2 provides for the transfer of the lands and buildings of the "Official Trustee of Charity Lands," thereby abolishing the Trustees of lands, buildings, etc., and reducing the Board of Governors by their number—but on the other hand, the clause relating to the powers conferred by legacies has been extended, and we give its entire text as follows:—

"Any person or persons, not exceeding three in number, appointed as a Governor or Governors by the will of a testator

who gives or has given to this Charity a sum of £100 or upwards, or property, which in the opinion of the Governors is of the value of £100 or upwards, or failing such appointment, the acting executor or executors for the time being of such will. The person or persons so appointed shall hold office for life; the acting executor or executors shall hold office during such time only as he or they continue to act as executor or executors, or trustee or trustees of the will."

The construction of the Board of Management has been considerably extended, thereby providing for six members (four ex-officio members, consisting of the President and Vice-Presidents, and two representatives of School Authorities), five representative members from local authorities, and ten co-opted members—21 in all. It will be seen that the Board of Governors under the old scheme elected the entire Board of Management, consisting of 16 members, but they are now limited to 14, the remaining seven being representative members of outside authorities.

The mode of "selection" and "election" of inmates remains undisturbed.

A Chartered Accountant replaces the two Hon. Auditors, and he has no voice in the management.

A wide latitude is given for the education of blind persons, to enable them to provide wholly or in part for their own subsistence, as is also the case with regard to the employment and remuneration of blind persons whether inmates or otherwise.

The most important change is the power conferred as to the granting of pensions and temporary loans. There are of course many conditions and safeguards, but, speaking generally, we are pleased to be able to say that with an increase of income, commensurate with the demands under these heads, there is a wide field of usefulness opened out which ought to establish Henshaw's Asylum as one of the most important of the charities existing for the benefit of the blind.

Each pensioner is to have a stipend at the rate of not less than 5/- a week, and not more than 10/- a week. Under this head there follows this important saving clause:—

“In the case of a pensioner possessing a properly secured income from other sources or in receipt of assistance from relations or others, or who is earning money amounting to less than the maximum stipend allowed under this clause, the Board may pay him or her such a stipend not exceeding the stipend which he or she would otherwise receive as will make his or her total income not more than the said maximum.”

The provision as to temporary relief empowers the Board of Governors to set aside each year a sum not exceeding £500, to be given to poor blind persons by way of loan or otherwise.

We congratulate the Governors on Clause 47, which allows them to continue the benefits of the charity to any person who at the time the scheme came into operation was in receipt of such benefits.

We have passed over numerous trifling alterations which are calculated to make the working of the scheme easier, and we also pass over the lengthy detail for the guidance of the Board of Management.

The whole of the Capital Funds are transferred to “The Official Trustees of Charitable Funds,” and will of course be controlled by them in future.

We close this notice with the following extract from a speech delivered by Mr. Frederick Platt-Higgins, M.P., at a meeting of the Board of Governors of the Charity, held in Manchester on the 28th April, 1902, and we heartily commend its consideration to the public at large.

“Nothing to my mind can be more fallacious than to suppose that the present endowments of £2,900 per annum can enable any Board, however constituted, to deal adequately with all the various pressing needs and wants of the blind in such a densely populated district as that in which we live, and there will be no greater disappointment after all this widening of the Board of Management and this multiplying of the avenues of assistance, than to find it all comes to naught for want of the funds necessary for giving effect to the objects of our desire.”

RECENT LITERATURE.

During the past few months the following works have been stereotyped in Braille by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

Sir Walter Scott's Kenilworth (interpointed)	s. d.
" " " .. vols. i. to iv. each	3 0
" " " vol. v.	3 6
" " " vol. vi.	3 9
" " " vol. vii.	4 0
T. Hughes' Tom Brown's Schooldays (interpointed)	
" " " vols. i. and iv. each	3 6
" " " vol. ii.	3 0
" " " vol. iii	3 9
H. W. Longfellow's The Courtship of Miles Standish (interpointed) 1 vol.	1 6
H. W. Longfellow's Hiawatha (interpointed) 1 vol.	4 6
The Church Hymnary complete in 8 vols. ..	20 0

In Moon's type by Moon's Society, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton:—

The Book of Job	s. d.
" Daniel	3 6
" Joshua	3 6
" Isaiah in 2 vols. (Welsh)	7 0
Britain's King and Queen, 3 vols... .. each	3 6

In Braille at the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh.

Prologue to the "Holy City" by A. R. Gaul, M.B., price 1/- post free, or the whole work complete 5/- post free (*music*).

The following Stories, by popular authors, price 3/- per vol., each strongly bound in boards, postage extra.

The House of the Wolf, by Stanley J. Weyman, (slightly abridged), 2 vols. (Interlined).

A Gentleman of France, by the same author, (slightly abridged), 5 vols. (Interlined).

King Solomon's Mines, by H. Rider Haggard, 4 vols. (Interlined).

The Sleeve of Care, by C. E. C. Weigall, in 1 vol. (Interlined).

Concerning Isabel Carnaby, by Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler, 4 vols. (Interpointed.)

The Brotherhood of the Seven Kings, by L. T. Meade and Robert Eustace, 2 vols. (Interlined).

The Cruise of the Wasp, (abridged) in 1 vol. (Interlined).

The following short stories may also be had, bound in paper covers, about 60 p.p. each, price one shilling, post free.

My New Year's Eve among the Mummies, by Grant Allen, and At the Sign of the Three Snakes, by R. E. Vernede.

The Clubfooted Grocer, by A. Conan Doyle, and a Game of Hide and Seek, by C. F. Heddle.

On her Nineteenth Birthday, by Lilian Quiller Couch, and A Wedding Gift, by Leonard Outram.

Margaret, by Katharine Lee, The Helmet, from the French of Ferdinand Beissier, and The New Curate.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 23.

JULY 20TH, 1903.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 19th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Hon. Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

In this number there appears an article by Mr. Tate, a member of the Committee of the Bradford Institution for the Blind, which shows very clearly what an accurate register is kept of all blind persons in Bradford. A similar register in all the large towns would be found most interesting and useful.

We are pleased to be able to announce that in response to our request in No. 21, orders have been received to send copies of this quarterly paper to the members of the Committee of several Institutions for the Blind. The result has been an increase of nearly 30 per cent. over last year in the number of subscribers.

Reference to the annual reports of several Institutions has been unavoidably deferred to the next number through want of space.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. Mr. John Lawrence Gardner, B.A., late of Worcester Blind College and of Selwyn College, Cambridge, has been ordained Deacon and appointed to a curacy at Leytonstone. Mr. Gardner has been at Leeds Clergy School during the past twelve months, preparing for taking Holy Orders.

2. Mr. G. M. Llewellyn, who took second class Honours in Modern History at Oxford, took his M.A. degree on May 29th.

3. The Rev. Hubert T. G. Kingdon has been appointed Superintendent of the Asylum for the Blind, Queen's Road, Bristol, and will combine the duties of Chaplain and Secretary, recently vacated by the Rev. W. J. Pollock after 16 years' service, and Mr. R. Blackmore after 17 years' service respectively.

4. We congratulate Mr. Frederick W. Priest, a Gardner scholar at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, on having secured the appointment of organist at Meriden Church, near Coventry. Mr. Priest is now studying for the A.R.C.O. diploma of the Royal College of Organists.

5. It is with very great regret that we have to announce the death of Miss Annie Sharp on April 24th, at the North India Missionary Institute for the Blind, Rajpur. We had a long interesting conversation with her just before she returned to India, where her valuable life was taken away by cholera, only a few weeks after her return. We referred to the good work she was doing in India in our last January number, paragraph 25. She was most anxious to hear what was being done for the Blind in England, so as to assist her in her future work on their behalf in India. Her place will be difficult to fill, as with her technical knowledge and practical experience she organised and superintended all arrangements in connection with the Blind, both at the new quarters at Rajpur, as well as those previously carried out at S. Catherine's Hospital, Amritsar. Her death came just a fortnight after she had moved with her 70 blind women and children to the new home. Her successor is her sister, Miss Frances Sharp, who has been working as a Missionary in India for twenty years, and is therefore acquainted with the people and their language.

6. It is stated that Mr. Ira Sankey, the well-known evangelist, who has held many meetings in London and elsewhere

has become totally and permanently blind after an unsuccessful operation for the eyes.

7. It is gratifying to be able to announce that the Uniform Braille Committee, which was the outcome of the Conference organised last year by the Gardner's Trust for the Blind, has amalgamated with the New Contractions Committee of the British and Foreign Blind Association under the name of "The British Braille Committee." The first meeting was held on Saturday, May 9th, at the Bible House, Queen Victoria Street, when seventeen members were present. It was decided that the meetings should be held at the Bible House, and that the next three meetings should be at intervals of four weeks. As many of the members come from a distance it was deemed advisable that full advantage should be taken of each meeting, so that a morning and afternoon sitting have been arranged. The subject of Corresponding Members was carefully considered, and in view of the pressure of the work, and the inability to organise successfully an extended system of correspondence, it was deemed unnecessary to formally invite the assistance of additional members. On the other hand, the subject is of such vital importance that it was felt that every point should be, as far as possible, publicly ventilated. To this end notices of the points to be discussed will be sent to the members a fortnight in advance, so that they may have an opportunity of consulting the local experts in their district, and of instituting a thorough and comprehensive enquiry before the meeting is held. A long and careful consideration of the general lines of the Committee's work resulted in the decision that the Committee will endeavour to arrive at a scheme for printing Braille in three grades. Should such a scheme be devised it is hoped that the publication of books of general literature will follow one or other of the systems recommended, and thus terminate the "infinite variety" at present in vogue. The basis of the work will be the "Instructions for Writing in the Braille System," (5th edition) published by the British and Foreign Blind Association.

The second meeting of the Committee was held on June 6th,

when twenty-two members were present. The Rev. A. Taylor, of the Bible Society, was unanimously elected to the chair, and Mr. F. A. J. Burns, of the British and Foreign Blind Association, kindly consented to act as Hon. Secretary. The Committee then proceeded to consider Grade I, representing what is generally understood as uncontracted Braille. The whole subject was most carefully discussed and the following resolutions provisionally adopted :—

1. That in Grade I each letter of every word be represented by a separate sign.

2. That only such abbreviations be allowed as are permitted in ordinary print.

3. That the Capital sign be dots 2 and 6, and that its use be strongly recommended for School Books.

4. That the Cardinal numbers be written as at present and that the Ordinals be represented by adding the proper endings to the Cardinal numbers.

5. That in all points of abbreviation, punctuation and composition, the usages of sighted compositors be strictly adhered to.

6. That the present poetry sign be used, except when the poetry is written line for line.

8. We have had much pleasure in seeing and working a small portable Braille writer invented by Messrs. Stainsby and Wayne of Birmingham. This little machine has been designed to meet a long-felt want for a cheap, portable and efficient Braille writer which would be more expeditious than an ordinary writing frame. It consists of a wooden case about 11 inches long by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, with clips and rollers underneath to move up and hold the paper. The writing carriage is very tiny, and consists mainly of six writing keys and levers, and one spacing key. This little carriage travels along by a pawl and ratchet arrangement after a letter has been written or a space made. A small bell practically hidden in the framework indicates when the carriage is within five spaces of the end of the line. The machine will interline or write on one side of the paper only.

Briefly put, the construction of the machine is exactly opposite to that of ordinary Typewriting Machines and Braille-writers ; in most of these, the paper carriage moves each time the keys are depressed and released, but in this little Braillewriter the paper remains stationary while a line is being written, and the writing carriage moves along. This arrangement has had the effect of enormously reducing the cost and size of the machine, which is now so compact and small that it can be carried in the coat pocket. It is also extremely light, weighing only about 20 ounces. The machines, price one guinea each small size, and 25/- each large size, will be ready for sale in September next, and can be obtained through Mr. Wayne; 55, Church Hill Road, Handsworth, Birmingham. We believe that the little machine will be found most useful, and the low price places it within the reach of many blind persons. The low cost of production is accounted for by (1) the simplicity of the machine, (2) the purchase by a few friends of the Blind of the necessary tools for making it, and (3) the fact that neither Mr. Stainsby nor Mr. Wayne will derive any pecuniary benefit for the many months of careful thought they have devoted to the invention.

9. The Kensington Institute for the Blind, 60, High Street, Notting Hill Gate, W., is henceforth to be known as The West London Workshops for the Blind.

10. Mr. Cripps has brought in a Bill to amend the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893. The Bill is very brief and the only amendment is the omission of the words "to the extent of not less than one-third, defrayed out of sources other than local rates or moneys provided by Parliament, and are" in Section seven (1) (b) of the Act of 1893. If this Bill become an Act, as we much hope it may, the Committees of the various Institutions will be deeply indebted to Mr. Cripps for ridding them of a much felt grievance.

11. Referring to the note in our last number (page 29) about the Sheffield Institution for the Blind it appears that the

sum mentioned for sale of goods, viz., £2577, was only the cash received in 1902, but that the amount of goods actually sold during 1902, though not all paid for, was £3594, including sales at the retail shop amounting to £560.

12. An afternoon concert was given on June 26th, in the central hall of the School for the Blind at Leatherhead. The programme included Mozart's Sonata in D (for two pianos), an organ solo, songs, glees and a recitation. After the concert there was an exhibition of the pupils' work, and the buildings and workshops were thrown open to the visitors, who had accepted the Principal's kind invitation.

13. It gives us much pleasure to announce that the order was given in May last for the erection of the new Kindergarten School in connection with the Birmingham Institution for the Blind. The lowest tender, amounting to £10,467 was accepted, and the donations received up to that time just covered the actual tender for the building.

14. A dinner on behalf of the Home Teaching Society for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W., was held at the Hotel Metropole, on April 30th, presided over by the Rt. Hon. Viscount Midleton. The net proceeds amounted to about £600. There are 14 teachers, all blind, working in and around London.

15. Field Marshal H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, K.G., presided at the festival dinner in aid of the funds of the Royal Blind Pension Society, at the Hotel Metropole on June 11th. The result was a very substantial addition to the Society's funds. The pensions are paid monthly through honorary almoners, and range from 25/- to 10/- per month. There are nearly 1,100 pensioners to whom upwards of £7000 is paid annually.

16. The Directors of the Edinburgh Asylum and School for the Blind have rented a house at Musselburgh, as a Convalescent Home for invalids and inmates of the Institution, and for those who need a change of air.

17. Meetings to commemorate the Twenty-third Anniversary of the North London Homes for Blind Men and Women were held in the Jubilee Hall attached to the Homes, on May 28th. A Thanksgiving Service was held at 3.30 p.m., and the Annual Meeting at 7.30 p.m.

18. It is pleasant to have to announce that another Workshop, viz., the one at Middlesbrough, is about to extend its usefulness, and that some property has been recently purchased for that purpose. At present there are only nine people employed in the workshops, but several pupils are about to leave school, and it is mainly for the object of providing for them that the Committee have decided on an extension. These workshops were instituted six years ago by the Yorkshire School for the Blind, and have been hitherto a branch of the school, but now a local Committee have taken over the responsibility.

19. The Annual Meeting of the Workshops for the Blind at Belfast was held on March 25th, and well deserved praise was given to Mr. Hewitt, the manager, for a most successful year's work. The sales amounted to nearly £16,000, the wages paid to the Blind to £2,969, and £304 were expended in supplementing wages. The number benefited during the year 1902 was 128, and the new dining rooms, erected in 1901, have been much appreciated by the workers. Nearly 100,000 brushes were made in the Institution during the year.

20. The North Staffordshire Institution for the Blind was founded by a combination of School Boards under the Act of 1893, and opened in 1897. The experience of the headmaster, Mr. A. J. Story, during the first three years of the Institution's working proved that some provision was necessary in order to continue the training of the Blind after the age of sixteen years, for the purpose of enabling them to earn a livelihood. This necessity was pointed out to the Committee in a report presented in 1901, and immediate steps were taken by the Chairman of the Authority to enlist public interest in the matter, the ordinary

funds of the Institution, which are provided exclusively from rate sources, not being available for the purpose of benefitting blind persons over sixteen years of age. A public meeting was held at Stoke-upon-Trent under the presidency of Mr. Godfrey Wedgwood of Idlerocks, and at this meeting generous promises of assistance were obtained. A Committee, consisting of the Mayors of the several Boroughs in the Potteries area, the Chairmen of the District Councils in the neighbourhood, with six other gentlemen, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. V. Greatbatch, was appointed. A suitable building, situated in Victoria Road, Shelton, Hanley, was engaged, and converted into a spacious and airy workshop, and Mr. J. Drew was appointed as instructor. The staple industry of the district is the manufacture of pottery, which requires for packing and conveyance a vast number of hampers and warehouse baskets, and a ready and extensive market for these articles appearing probable, the Committee decided to commence teaching the basket trade to men and youths at the start. The workshops were opened by Miss Wedgwood of Idlerocks in July of last year, and since that time eleven blind workers have been employed. Thanks to the cordial assistance of the manufacturers in the district in placing orders with the Committee, there has been no lack of work, and in the first ten months of the life of the workshops over £400 worth of baskets of various kinds have been made and sold. Beginners are allowed the sum of five shillings weekly until by their own labour they can earn more, when they are paid at the current rates. The success achieved in this department for males has led the Committee to arrange for the instruction of blind girls and women, and a good market is open in the Potteries for such articles as cane handles and small baskets, and the manufacture of these is now about to be undertaken. There are many indications that this new development will be as valuable to those for whose benefit it is intended as the department for men and youths has already proved to be. The progress of agencies for the betterment of the Blind has been most marked in North Staffordshire. Within six years the Education Authorities of the district have established a residential Institution for the purposes of their education, and

out of this has grown, through the generosity of friends of the Blind, the workshops referred to above, in which both male and female blind persons of the district who are able and willing to work, may find opportunities for healthy and remunerative employment. The Institution and the workshops, although in management and financially distinct, are closely connected, for on two afternoons per week the elder boys from the Institution attend at the workshops for definite instruction in basket work. We are convinced that there is a wide field of usefulness in store for the North Stafford Workshops, and we wish the Committee every success in their work.

21. The Annual Exhibition of Work executed by the Blind under the London School Board was held at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, on May 9th, 11th, 12th & 13th. Some of the work was exceptionally good, especially the bead work, specimens of sewing, &c.

22. We have to acknowledge with many thanks the safe receipt of a nicely bound and well printed copy of "Living by the Spirit," embossed in New York point. It is presented to the Blind by Mr. E. B. Convers, Englewood, N.J., U.S.A., and copies can be obtained by remitting 35 cents. for postage, and by applying to Mr. Wm. B. Wait, 412, Ninth Avenue, New York, U.S.A. A key to the New York point alphabet is enclosed with the book.

23. *The Adelaide Observer* of April 18th, remarks: "It is wonderful to contemplate that the organisation of perhaps the largest and most elaborate fair held in South Australia has been under the direction of a sightless gentleman in the person of Mr. A. W. Hendry," General Secretary of the Royal Institution for the Blind, North Adelaide, Australia. Mr. Hendry hopes to raise £3,000 to provide additional buildings, to extend the Braille publishing department, &c. In 1902 there were 63 at the School, and 95 associated with the Institution. £2,414 were paid last year to the blind workers, who have received during

the past 13 years £22,244. The fair seems to have been an exceptionally brilliant spectacle. There were 18 stalls decorated with artificial flowers, which were made by 800 ladies, and at night over 1,700 electric lamps were used to light up the "bowers in fairyland."

24. The 67th annual report of the New York Institution for the Blind, for the year ended September 30th, 1902, has a most interesting account of the "Battle of the Types" in America, by the Principal, Mr. W. B. Wait. He appeals strongly for uniformity in his own country, but is of opinion that there are not sufficient reasons for such uniformity, although desirable, in the systems used in England and America, and that "this problem is one which cannot be finally settled either by argument or resolution, but must be worked to a conclusion through an evolutionary process on the basis of the survival of the fittest of the species." Mr. Wait is a strong supporter of the New York Point System, but he is mistaken in stating that "the Bible has not been printed in any other point system," because it is published in its entirety in the Braille type.

25. We wish to place on record a most interesting day in April last, spent in a pleasant visit to the Blind Asylum at Lausanne, Switzerland. Through the courtesy of M. Maurice Constançon, the Director, who was good enough personally to conduct us over the fine building in the Place du Chauderon, we thoroughly inspected all the arrangements there made for the well being and instruction of the Blind, and feel bound to confess that in two or three instances, notably in the size, light and airiness of the various workshops and dormitories, we in England might very profitably take a lesson. The Asylum provides accommodation for 36 pupils, but at present has only 18 boys and 9 girls under instruction. These 27 pupils are divided into four classes, excluding six of them, who attend some of the lessons in the school and at the same time serve their apprenticeship in the workshop, where there are 23 workmen. Four pupils form the first class, five the second, and

twelve the third. These twelve little ones require very skilled teaching, and cost infinitely more pains and trouble than the older-pupils. The boys are turned into the workshop at the age of 18. There is a very fine ophthalmic hospital, attached to the Institution, presided over by M. le Professeur M. Dufour, so well known among eye specialists, and 535 cases were treated during the year. Of the Institution as a whole, it has been well said in the Report that it responds to all modern requirements and will probably meet the needs of another half century. We heartily wish it all the success and prosperity it so thoroughly deserves.

26. The following books in Braille have been added to the Free Library at Oxford, a small Greek lexicon to the New Testament, extracts from Sanday and Headlam—"Commentary on the Romans," Bright—"Primitive Church Life," Pelham—"Outlines of Roman History, Books VII to XII of the "Iliad." Volumes VII to X of Stubb's "Constitutional History in the Fifteenth Century," and volumes VI and VII of Selections from Anson—"Law and Custom of the Constitution."

27. It may not be generally known that there are published in France, especially for the Blind, physical and political maps of that country and of Europe, as well as a physical map of Asia. A map dealing with French railways may also be had.

28. An interesting meeting was held on May 19th, at 206, Great Portland Street, on the invitation of the Executive Committee of the British and Foreign Blind Association, when the Rev. W. Hill-Murray gave a short account of his work and experiences in China.

29. The Swiss Association for the welfare of the Blind, (9, Rue des Granges, Geneva), has just published a catalogue of its library in Braille, price forty-five centimes (including postage.)

INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES.

Bristol. The report of the Bristol Asylum for the Blind for the year 1902 was read at the annual meeting held on May 7th, in the Music Hall of the Institution, and shows that during the past year there were 64 inmates above and 38 below 16 years of age. There were also 21 men employed in the workshops. An additional workshop is in course of construction, as the Committee are anxious to increase the number both of the workers and also of the learners above the age of 16. A register has been started for keeping in touch with all former pupils. The legacies amounted to £1145. The sales amounted to £1340, and £505 were paid in wages to the blind workmen. Pensions of £4 10s. or £2 10s. a year were paid to 8 blind women.

Greenwich. The annual report for 1902 of the Workshop for the Blind of Kent, 49, London Street, Greenwich, S.E., shows that the sales, being an increase on those of previous years, amounted to £1492, and £726 were paid in wages to the workers. Only men are admitted to the workshop. Pupils are received between 15 and 40 years of age at a fee of 5/- a week.

Liverpool. (a) The annual report for 1902 of the Catholic Blind Asylum, 59, Brunswick Road and Yew Tree Lane, West Derby, Liverpool, was read at the annual meeting held on May 18th. There are in the Institution 195 inmates (98 adults and 97 children.) There is a mortgage debt of £9,700 on the buildings. Legacies amounting to £525 were received.

(b) The 112th annual report of the School for the Indigent Blind, Hardman Street, and of the Wavertree Branch School, Liverpool, for the year 1902 shows that in the former school there were 96 inmates, and in the latter 73. During the past year 52 blind persons have been assisted by means of the "Old Pupils' Fund" with an outfit of tools, materials, &c. £850 were received in legacies.

London. (a) The report for the year ended December 31st, 1902, of the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, W., has been issued, and refers to

the necessity of its incorporation last year under the Companies Acts, and of its centralization under one roof in the new extensive premises. Reference is also made to the opening of an employment Bureau, where blind workers and their patrons can be brought together, and to the "Braille Review," the new publication in ordinary type, printed at the office for giving information about new literature in Braille, and free advertisement to blind persons in need of employment. The sales of maps, books, frames, &c., including the subscriptions to "Progress" amounted to £1809, and £675 were paid to blind writers and stereotypers. At the end of the report there is a catalogue of books and appliances for sale.

(b) The report for 1902 of the Class for the Blind held at 188, Ebury Street, S.W., founded in 1855, shows that there are 70 members, who meet every Tuesday afternoon, except in August and September, for two hours. An hour is spent in Bible Reading and Prayer, and another hour in instruction in reading and writing, followed by a tea. There are eight blind teachers.

(c) The 47th annual report of the Home Teaching Society for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, S.W., was presented at the annual meeting, held on March 24th, at 22, Hyde Park Gardens, and presided over by the Rt. Hon. Viscount Midleton. There are over 1800 blind persons on the register, who are visited by 14 blind teachers—34,672 visits were paid, and 32,875 loans of books. The North Hants and West Surrey branch has been considerably developed recently, and there are 90 blind people in that district. The adoption of the report was moved by Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Bart, M.P., and seconded by Mr. Reginald MacLeod, C.B.

(d) The 40th annual report of the South London Association for assisting the Blind for the year ended 31st of January last has been published. All the work of the Association is conducted voluntarily by a committee of ladies and gentlemen, and the office is provided rent free. There are several classes held at Walworth, Brixton, and Kennington, for instruction in reading in embossed type and for teaching blind women

needlework. There are also occasional devotional meetings and recreation classes. The members, who number 150, are visited and relieved when necessary, and pensions and loans are granted. There are 42 pensioners, 4 at £5 and 38 at £2 a year, and 99 loans were made without interest amounting to £99 10s., varying from 5/- to £3.

(e) The 68th annual report for the year ended March 31st of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society, 8, Red Lion Square, W.C., was read at the annual meeting, held on June 9th at 58, Green Street, W., and presided over by Capt. E. B. B. Towse, V.C. Classes are held in six different centres, and there are 542 persons on the register. There is a blind superintendent and ten blind visitors. The legacies amounted to £1753. An Association called "Eyes to the Blind" in close co-operation with the Society, has been started to provide work for blind women, and to find a sale for their work when done.

Manchester. The report for the year ended December 31st, 1902, of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society has been published, and was presented at the annual meeting held on February 11th. It gives a detailed account of the various branches of the Society and shows that employment is being found for 60 blind persons. There is a Sick and Benefit Branch with 170 members, a Home of Rest at St. Anne's-on-the-Sea with three regular inmates, and in addition 74 visitors, a Home at Salford always full, a Visiting branch, the Braille industry with 28 blind writers, the Industrial branch with 5 men making brushes, &c.

Norwich. The report of the Asylum and School for the Indigent Blind, Magdalen Street, Norwich, for the year ended December 31st, 1902, has been issued. The Institution was established in 1805 and rebuilt in 1889. The total number of inmates is 34, *i.e.* 20 in the Technical School, and 14 in the Asylum, and there are besides nine non-resident journeymen. There is ample accommodation for many more inmates. £324 were received in legacies, and the trade receipts amounted to £589. £179 were paid in wages to the journeymen.

Plymouth. The 43rd annual meeting of the South Devon and Cornwall Institution for the Instruction and Employment of the Blind, North Hill, Plymouth, was held on March 12th, when the Hon. Ivor Guest, M.P., presided and the report for 1902 was adopted. There are 58 blind persons resident in the House, and 18 reside outside with their families. Thirty have regular employment at full wages. The sales amounted to £1469, and £422 were paid to blind workmen. There are 20 children in the school, and there is accommodation for a considerable additional number. The legacies amounted to £2048.

Wolverhampton. The annual meeting of the Wolverhampton Society for the Blind was held on May 8th, when the mayor presided, and the report for 1902 was presented. Mr. Stainsby gave an address on the education of the Blind, and Mr. Myers, the blind stenographer, gave illustrations of his work. There are 107 blind persons on the Society's register, who are regularly visited by the blind visitor. There are 16 men and 4 women constantly employed in the workshop. The Sick Benefit Society has a balance in hand of £126. The sale of goods amounted to £1388, being a decrease of £277, as compared with last year, and the workpeople received £352 in wages. The endowment fund now amounts to £745, and an annuity of £30 16s. 8d. will eventually become payable to the Society under the will of a blind clergyman, recently deceased.

A REGISTER OF THE BLIND.

Amongst the many interesting and valuable papers read at the London Conference in April, 1902, those on "Statistics concerning the Blind," by Reginald MacLeod, Esq., C.B., Registrar General, and on "The Prevention of Blindness," by Robert Brudenell Carter, Esq., F.R.C.S., open up questions of far-reaching importance, and indicate the close relationship which exists between accurate knowledge and beneficent action in regard to the treatment of the Blind.

Although in the opinion of Dr. Carter, "There is reason to believe that census returns usually understate the number of the Blind, mainly on account of the fact that many who can just distinguish light from darkness, or who can just guide themselves, but who are unable to follow any occupation, are disinclined to apply to themselves the only word which would accurately describe their real condition"; yet the returns do afford much helpful information, and fully warrant the conclusion that a gradual diminution in the numbers of the Blind has been taking place during the past fifty years. On comparing the number of blind persons in England and Wales recorded by the census of 1851, with his estimate for 1901, the Registrar General remarks: "The improvement is very great, and is certainly, in the main, attributable to the greater precautions taken to prevent Purulent Ophthalmia, to improvements in surgical treatment, and to diminished prevalence of Small Pox."

The gratifying assurance that "Prevention" is thus actively and beneficially at work, encourages the hope that further progress may be looked for in this direction, and suggests the desirability of more stringent measures being devised and enforced (especially in regard to the care of infants and young children), in order that the ignorance, carelessness and indifference still prevalent amongst certain classes of society may eventually be dispelled. Whilst strenuous efforts are being directed to the provision of increased facilities to enable the adult Blind to earn their own living, such labours should not entirely monopolise the attention of friends of the Blind, but, side by side with these, careful thought should be bestowed upon every circumstance which tends to the prevention of blindness in the future.

In the meantime, and to prepare the way for fuller and more accurate returns when another census falls due, might it not be well for those having to do with the management of Institutions, Blind Visiting Societies, &c., to attempt the systematic enrolment of the Blind in their immediate neighbourhood, together with particulars regarding the cause of blindness, the age at which it occurred, the degree of vision, if any, remaining,

and such other information as might be deemed advisable. By so doing, a reliable uniform and authentic record of the condition and circumstances of the Blind would be available, which might be of service in directing attention to some of the more easily preventible causes of blindness, as well as in securing a fuller realisation of the needs and claims of the Blind by the public at large.

Some months ago, being desirous of learning to what extent the Bradford Institution was in touch with the various members of the blind community resident in the city, and more especially, how far those not directly connected with the Institution, as workers, or pensioners, were being provided for, it occurred to me to prepare a Register of all the local blind known to the Committee or its officers.

Systematic visitation of the Blind has been carried on under the auspices of the Ladies' Committee for many years, and a fairly complete list of names and addresses was readily at hand in the Visitors' Book. Taking advantage of such particulars as were known to the Hon. Secretary and the Visitor, or were obtainable from the records of the Institution, and without troubling the Blind by direct enquiries, I was able to compile a very interesting and useful Register.

By arranging the names according to the occupation of each individual, and excluding those residing beyond the city boundaries, (as also the blind inmates of the two workhouses) the results came out as follows:—

Institution Workers	..	..	..	Men 55	Women 23
Institution Pensioners	..	..	..	„ 14	„ 15
Pensioners from other Sources	..	..	..	„ 3	„ 3
School Teachers, Music Teachers, Piano Tuners, &c.	..	..	..	„ 12	„ 3
Men, having private means, supported by relatives, or by relief from the Guardians	..	..	..	„ 18	„ —
Women living at home, and for the most part engaged in domestic work (14 are married)	..	..	..	„ —	„ 25

Hawkers, 5 ; Beggars, 8 ; Doubtful, 5	Men 11	Women 7
Defectives	.. „ 2	.. „ 1
Children at the Blind School ..	.. Boys 12	Girls 13
„ Elsewhere and Invalids ..	.. „ 2	.. „ 5
	129	95

These groups were divided in various ways to bring about more detailed classification : thus, Institution workers (men) showed not only the kinds of work engaged in, but also the average earnings of the workers, Class A. earning 25s. per week and upwards, Class B. 20s. to 25s., Class C. 15s. to 20s., Class D. 12s. to 15s., Class E. 9s. to 12s., and Class F. 7s. to 9s. In this way many of the workers came under review in a new light, and afforded striking evidence of the diversity of attainment possible under almost identical conditions of work.

The particulars relating to those not directly connected with the Institution have been amplified, if not indeed superseded, by a more recent inquiry initiated by the Finance Committee of the Bradford City Council.

A Sub-committee from this body having been appointed to investigate the condition of the needy Blind of the City, it was thought desirable that the Blind should be visited at their homes and invited to furnish such information as would enable the Committee to realise their position. Two officers of the Corporation were appointed for this purpose, and the Sub-Committee was good enough to suggest that I should assist in the work.

A schedule of questions was prepared, which the Blind were asked to reply to as fully as possible, it being understood that the answers would be treated in confidence, each person being eventually known by number only.

The questions were as follows :—

Name and address ?

How long blind ?

How long resident in Bradford ?

Sex ? Age ?

Degree of blindness ?

- A. No perception of light.
- B. Can see shadows.
- C. Can count fingers at the distance of one foot.
- D. Imperfect vision to such an extent as to be unable to follow a sighted occupation.

Married or single ?

Whether self-supporting ?

If not, how provided for ?

Present employment ?

Where trained, and to what trade ?

Earnings last month at trade ?

Supplementary earnings, or other income ?

Family, if any ?

Name ? Age ?

Although the enquiry had reference primarily to the needs of the indigent blind, it was deemed advisable to extend its scope so that every blind person within the city should be enumerated in some form or other, and answers have been already received from 188 persons over the age of 16. There are 10 or 12 more, whose names are known, from whom answers have still to be received, and in addition, 30 blind persons (10 men and 20 women), mostly advanced in years are living in the two workhouses. The children between the ages of 2 and 16 have been enumerated through the aid of officers of the School Board, and number 50, viz. 24 boys and 26 girls.

For the purposes of this paper, I have summarised the answers received from the 188 adults, (112 men and 76 women) reserving for future consideration the details relating to children and those in the workhouses.

Taking first the "Age at which blindness occurred," obtained by comparing the answers to "Age," and "How long blind," the following are the results:—

AGE AT WHICH BLINDNESS OCCURRED.

	Infancy	1-10	10-20	20-30	30-80	
Males	27	19	17	16	33	= 112
Females	19	14	10	3	30	= 76

It will be seen that 46 have been "Blind from Infancy," whilst the number of those who lost their sight during the first twenty years of life amounts to not less than 106. Unfortunately, the schedule of questions did not include one as to the "Cause of blindness," but it may be confidently asserted that more than one half of these became blind from preventable causes.

In those cases which came under my own investigation, I found that "Inflammation" during infancy or early childhood, largely predominated over every other cause of blindness, whilst neglected colds, influenza and blows on the head, though much less frequent, afforded other instances of a state of things which should not exist in the present day. On the other hand it is gratifying to record that I came across only one case of blindness arising from a shuttle accident in a mill; and when it is remembered, that some years ago this kind of accident was a frequent cause of blindness amongst women employed as weavers in the worsted mills, and that the accident in question took place 18 years ago, it may be safely assumed that prevention, in the form of compulsory shuttle guards affixed to the power looms, has been a complete success.

ANSWERS TO "DEGREE OF VISION."

	A	B	C	D	Not Stated.	
Males	44	31	11	10	16	= 112
Females	40	19	6	1	10	= 76

Those returned as "not stated" were enumerated in the early stage of the enquiry, and before this question had been included in the printed schedule.

The answers to questions 7, 8, 9 and 10 may be summarised briefly as follows :—

PRESENT EMPLOYMENT.

One hundred and twelve (68 men and 44 women), are engaged in active occupations, and seventy-six (44 men and 32 women), have no occupation.

Those at work are employed in the following trades and professions :—

MEN.		WOMEN.	
Brush makers	37	Knitters	17
Basket makers	9	Chair Caners	5
Pianoforte Tuners	8	School Teachers	3
News Agents	4	Travellers	2
Music Teachers	2	Students	2
Mat Weavers	2	Engaged in Domes-	
Hawkers	2	tic Work	15
Law Student	1		
Pianist	1		
Tea Merchant	1		
Coal Dealer	1		
	68		44

WHETHER SELF-SUPPORTING ?

	Yes.	Not wholly.	No.
Males	51	15	2
Females	13	12	19

Those answering "Not wholly" are assisted, in so far as their own earnings are insufficient to keep them, by, Institution Pensions 2, Board of Guardians 3, Help of relations 20, and by help of friends 2. The two men answering "No" are learners and have only recently begun to work at trades. Of the 19 women returned in same class, 15 (13 married and 2 unmarried), are engaged in housework, and are supported by husbands or parents, 2 are at school and college, supported by Scholarships, and 2 are supported by relations.

Those returned as of "No occupation" are supported as follows :—

Private means	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3
Pensioners	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	16
Invalids supported by parents				..	..	..	3	—
Aged persons and others, supported by their children								
or other relations	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	7
In receipt of Poor relief			..	..	..	..	3	4
Street begging	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1
							45	31

76

Of the whole number (188) it is interesting to note that 114 were trained in the following Schools and Institutions.

Bradford 60. York 32, Norwood 10, Henshaws 4, Liverpool 2. Newcastle 2, and Birmingham, Nottingham, Sheffield and St. George's, London, one each.

The answers to the questions relating to "Earnings last month at trade," were a little complicated by the fact that some of the workers follow more than one avocation, and in some cases the trade avocation is the supplementary one; as, for instance, when a pianoforte tuner, who is also able to make brushes, fills up his spare time with the latter employment; or a brushmaker, who is also a newsagent, devotes his chief energies to the sale of morning and evening papers, and only a short period in the middle of the day to brushmaking.

Excluding such cases, and two or three who were absent from illness, there were 45 workmen fully employed as Brushmakers, Basketmakers, or Mat Weavers, during the four weeks specified in the enquiry, viz. "the four weeks ending Saturday, March 12th." Classifying the workers according to the difference in their earnings, the results were as follows:—

Average weekly earnings.	No. of workers.	Average weekly earnings.	No. of workers.
4/-	2 (Learners.)	12/- to 14/- ..	6
6/- to 7/- ..	1 (Not quite full time.)	14/- to 16/- ..	7
8/- to 10/- ..	4	16/- to 18/- ..	2
10/- to 12/- ..	10	18/- to 20/- ..	6
		20/- and upwards.	7

The gross amount paid averaged 14/10 each, per week.

There were 21 women employed during the same period, at Fancy Knitting and Chair-caning, whose wages averaged 7/2 each, per week.

No statement regarding the Blind of Bradford would be complete without a word or two regarding the Institution for the Blind itself. Founded in a very humble way in the year 1861 by a number of Ladies, it was for many years entirely administered under their beneficent auspices. From the very commencement the management has been chiefly concerned in efforts to provide remunerative employment for the blind, and the number of workers has gradually increased from three to nearly eighty. The present building was erected in 1868, when the number

employed had already reached a total of 37 and it has recently been extended in order to provide additional workrooms and other accomodation.

Although the Institution is now conducted by a joint Committee of Ladies and Gentlemen, the Ladies continue to direct the charitable agencies at work on behalf of the aged blind, and by Pensions, Gifts, Visitation, &c., to render their circumstances less painful and arduous.

That the Institution has fulfilled an important public service both to the Blind and to the community at large, it is only necessary to compare the condition of those who have been trained by its means to lead active, energetic and useful lives, with others for whom no such provision has been possible ; and if further proof were needful, to note that of the 8 blind beggars, now resident in Bradford, only 4 are natives of the city.

In addition to the foregoing, advantage was taken of the enquiry to trace the ex-pupils of the Bradford School for the Blind.

This school was founded by the School Board in March, 1885, eight years before education for the Blind became compulsory throughout the country.

Miss L. Holden, a former Gardner's scholar at the Royal Normal College, was appointed head teacher, and, except for a very short period, she has occupied that position with distinguished success down to the present time.

The number of pupils in daily attendance is 22, and, in addition to these, 48 pupils have passed through the school since the date of its establishment.

Five of these pupils recovered sight to such an extent as to be enabled to attend sighted schools. Of the 43 remaining, viz., 23 boys and 20 girls, the following is the record :—

One boy and one girl are dead ; three boys and seven girls have left the city ; eleven boys and five girls are employed at the Institution ; three girls have married, and one trained as a schoolmistress is assistant teacher at the Bradford School for the Blind ; two boys are following sighted occupations : one boy is a pianist, and one is still under school age ; two girls are still

being trained ; three boys and one girl are of defective intellect ; and one boy is a street beggar.

I trust that these particulars may prove interesting to the readers of *The Blind*, and encourage such as are connected with the management of Institutions, Schools and Visiting Societies to attempt similar enquiries in their own neighbourhood. I can assure them the work will more than repay the labour and sacrifice entailed in its fulfilment, and the information thereby obtained will enable them to render to the Blind services of the highest possible importance and value.

WILLIAM H. TATE.

RECENT LITERATURE.

During the past few months the following works have been stereotyped in Braille by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

Macaulay's Frederick the Great, (interpointed)	s.	d.
1 vol.	3	0

T. Carlyle's The French Revolution (interpointed)		
first six vols.	each	3 6

Dickens' The Haunted Man (interlined) 2 vols.	each	2 6
---	------	-----

Defoe's Robinson Crusoe (interlined) vol. i. and ii.	each	3 6
vol. iii.		3 0

Selections from "Elijah," Overture, price 5d. ; No. 5, "Yet doth the Lord see it not," price 8d. ; No. 8, "What have I to do with thee," price 7d.

Selections from the "Messiah," Overture, price 3d. ; "Thus saith the Lord," and "But who may abide," price 6d. ; "And He shall purify," price 6d. ; and many others price 6d. and 3d. each.

In Moon's type by Moon's Society, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton :—

The Book of Judges	s.	d.
	3	8

Barriers Burned Away, vols. i. and ii.	each	3 6
--	------	-----

The Best Book of All, and How we came by it.		3 6
--	--	-----

The Pilgrim's Progress in Tamil		3 6
---	--	-----

In Braille at the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh.

Prologue to the "Holy City" by A. R. Gaul, M.B., price 1/- post free, or the whole work complete 5/- post free (*music*).

T. Carlyle's Sartor Resartus, vol. i. 4/- ; "Hora Jucunda," vol. 42, (April to June, 1903) 4/6 ; Meade's and Eustace's The Man who Disappeared, (summer number of Hora Jucunda), a story of thrilling interest, 116 pages (small) price 1/- nett, postage 4d. extra.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 24.

OCTOBER 20TH, 1903.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 19th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Hon. Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

This month it is our pleasure to be able to chronicle the success of several blind students, and we heartily congratulate each and all and tender them our best wishes in the future careers which they have marked out for themselves so early in their lives.

We would call the special attention of our readers to paragraph No. 20, as it has a very important bearing on the difficult question of providing the necessary funds for the education of blind children above the age of 16 years.

With this number the subscriptions for "The Blind" for 1903 end, and therefore we shall be much obliged if intending subscribers for 1904 will kindly send their subscriptions as soon as convenient, but not later than December 12th, in order that we may know how many copies of each issue will be required. The subscription for the four quarterly numbers, post free, is 1½, and an order form is enclosed herewith. It is hoped that the receipt of "The Blind" as soon as published will be a sufficient acknowledgement of the payment of the subscription, but if not, and a formal receipt is required, the additional postage thereof should be sent with the subscription.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. The Rev. Greville C. Pope took his M.A. degree on August 4th. Mr. Pope was educated at the Worcester Blind College, and graduated at Oxford in the Honour School of Modern History. He was at Exeter College. Mr. Pope was ordained Priest by the Bishop of Llandaff, on September 20th.

2. Mr. John H. G. Smith, of Keble College, Oxford, graduated last July in Class iii. in the Honour School of Modern History. Mr. Smith was at the Worcester Blind College, and is now at the Ely Theological College preparatory to taking Holy Orders.

October 1902

4 3. Mr. George F. Whittleton has passed "Responsions" and enters Wadham College, Oxford, this term. Mr. Whittleton was at the Leeds School for the Blind and subsequently at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E.

5 4. Mr. Alexander Pearson, formerly a student and now a teacher in the Royal Normal College for the Blind, at Norwood, has successfully passed the Intermediate Examination in Arts recently held at London University, being placed in the First Division.

6 5. In addition to Miss Lucas becoming a fellow of the Royal College of Organists, to which reference is made in the special article on the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Mr. Percy Way, another pupil of the College, has passed the A.C.O. examination.

6 6. Mr. F. W. Priest, to whom we referred in paragraph 4 in our last number, has successfully passed the Examination of the Royal College of Organists, and is now a fully qualified A.R.C.O. Mr. Albert Robbins, to whose extraordinary memory reference was made in a recent issue of *The Blind*, has also passed the same Examination. Both men were pupils of Mr. Gaul at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind. It may not be generally known that the Blind work on the same conditions as the sighted. Indeed, the Examiners do not know of their

affliction, for the paper work is done under a number, and the judges in the organ playing tests do not know who is presiding at the organ. The only concession that the Blind have made to them is a little extension of the time in which to complete their paper work, but this extension is, in the opinion of many, wholly inadequate, as the blind student is compelled to record the questions in Braille, and then, after having worked them, to dictate them to the sighted person who acts as an amanuensis.

7. Miss Edith M. J. Jones, a blind teacher at the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, entered for the Examination for Acting Teachers held in July last by the Board of Education, and has received notice that she has successfully passed, and is now a First-class Certificated Mistress. Miss Jones received her early training at the School for the Blind, St. John's Wood, N.W., and afterwards spent five years at the Royal Normal College for the Blind. She has been a Teacher at the Birmingham Institution for nine years, and has qualified herself for the Certificate Examination by private study.

8. We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. G. R. Boyle, on the 9th of July last. Mr. Boyle, who was born near Dublin sixty years ago, was well known as the private secretary to the late Dr. T. R. Armitage, and subsequently to the late Mrs. T. R. Armitage, and in connection with the British and Foreign Blind Association. Mr. Boyle was in the service of the Armitage family for over forty years, and was constantly at work at inventions for the benefit of the Blind, especially in the preparation of relieve maps for sale at a low price. The funeral took place at Barnes Cemetery, and was attended by many blind persons and others interested in the Blind. Some of the pupils of the Royal Normal College impressively sang the hymns and Doxology at the graveside.

9. Mr. William Parry, the much respected blind Sunday School Teacher of sixty years standing, died at Blœnavon where his useful life had been spent, shortly after the brief notice of him appeared in paragraph 18 of our April number.

10. We cordially welcome Mr. A. W. Hendry on his arrival in England, and we feel sure that all those who are interested in the Blind, will do their utmost to make his visit a pleasant one and give him all the information they can on matters relating to the Blind. We referred to Mr. Hendry in paragraph 23 of our last number, little thinking that he would be with us before this number was issued. Mr. Hendry, manager of the North Adelaide Institution for the Blind, comes with a letter of introduction from the President and Hon. Secretary, and the Government of that State has also appointed him an Honorary Commissioner to enquire into the conditions and working of kindred Institutions in Great Britain. Mr. Hendry is himself blind, and has been associated with the North Adelaide Institution for 19 years, and is editor of "*Morning*," the well-known Braille Magazine.

11. Captain F. P. Webber, Flecknoe, Rugby, has been busily engaged for some time in poultry farming, and he is of opinion that it can be adapted for the Blind and be made a profitable industry. Captain Webber, who is himself blind, is prepared to receive suitable pupils—either blind or semi-blind -- and to give lectures and reorganise unprofitable roosts, &c. He is anxious to start a farm on a larger scale than the present one by means of Institutions or individuals taking shares of £50 each, and that a committee should be appointed to make an annual report on the farm and its work. Subscribers will be entitled to send yearly a suitable pupil to attend a five weeks course of instruction in poultry farming as adapted for the use of the Blind. A very interesting and practical article on the subject of poultry farming, by E. E. O. appeared in *The Guardian* of September 16th, page 1376, and of September 23rd, page 1412, under the title "The Amateur's Poultry Yard."

12. Councillor J. J. Plater, so well known for his great success in the basket trade, takes great interest in local affairs. He is a member of the Solihull Board of Guardians, and last August performed the opening ceremony of the Sparkhill Flower Show, and presided at the luncheon, making several speeches.

13. In consequence of the increasing expenditure incurred in the education and training of the blind pupils at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, the Committee have been compelled to raise the fees payable to them in respect of the maintenance, education and clothing of all resident pupils from twenty to twenty-five guineas per annum. The increase took effect from the 29th of September last, and applies to all resident pupils then in the Institution, as well as to those who shall be admitted after that date. The Institution, which is certified by the Board of Education and by the Local Government Board, provides a sound elementary and technical education followed by a training (according to the individual capacity of the children) in some profession or useful handicraft which will enable them to become self-supporting. On the completion of their training, pupils are either employed in the Institution Workshops, or started in business on their own account. Such comprehensive work, involving the employment of many special teachers, is necessarily expensive, and the average cost per pupil is £45 per annum. The Local Government Board have sanctioned £30 per annum as the maximum sum which Boards of Guardians may pay in respect of the maintenance, clothing and education of each pauper child sent by them to this Institution.

14. A plan of alterations and additions to the Midland Institution for the Blind at Nottingham has been submitted to the Committee, and will effect an immense improvement in the Institution premises. The cost is estimated at nearly £12,000, and the scheme is intended to mark the jubilee of the establishment of the Institution on its present site in 1853. A large new shop has also recently been taken in Long Row West, as the premises in Chapel Bar were found too small.

15. It is with much pleasure that we can announce that a promise of £5,000 has been made to the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society to buy land and build a Home of rest for the Blind at the seaside. This Home will replace the small one at St. Anne's-on-the-Sea, and will enable the Committee to

take not only the Blind of Manchester, but those of Lancashire for a fortnight or so of rest and change during the year. There will be room in the Home for 12 men and 12 women with entirely separate sleeping accommodation and sitting rooms, but with a common dining and entertaining room. The need of such a Home for the Blind in the North is great, and the Blind Aid Society is anxious to make the very best use of the funds so generously and unexpectedly entrusted to its care.

A larger house has also been taken in a much better situation in Manchester, for the Blind Women's Home, and the removal there will be made this month. We congratulate the Committee, and especially Miss I. M. Heywood, the Hon. Sec. on this valuable expansion of the work of the Society.

16. The incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind, 114, Belsize Road, London, N.W., has issued a report for 1902, and also a revised list of books. Seven blind writers have been employed during the year, and by them about 35 duplicate copies and 30 volumes of new works have been produced, and many volumes revised. There are over 5,500 volumes in circulation, and recently an additional 1,500 volumes have been purchased from the British and Foreign Blind Association. Efforts are being made to secure larger and more central offices.

17. Machine knitting and shampooing have been introduced into the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, and two former pupils, Messrs. Crowe and Firth, who wear the Institution's uniform and carry official receipt books, have been appointed to canvass for subscriptions and donations for the Institution.

18. We hoped to have been able to announce in this number that premises had been secured for the Institute for Massage by the Blind, as a small sub-committee were appointed with that object in view, and a suitable house has been seen, but at the time of going to press final arrangements have not been completed, owing to an unexpected difficulty having arisen. H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge has graciously consented to act

as Patron, and subscriptions are coming in steadily though slowly. Permanent appointments have been found by the Institute for a few blind operators, and they are happy and giving satisfaction. The Hon. Secretary of the Institute is Mrs. MacNicol, 64, Lancaster Gate, London, W.

19. When the Birkenhead Society for the Blind was started in 1899, Mr. C. Gatehouse, the president, was "told on what seemed to be reliable authority" that there were only 16 blind persons in the district. Now there are 156 blind persons on the books. No one, therefore, who is desirous of starting a local Home Teaching Society for the Blind should be dissuaded from doing so on account of an apparent paucity of blind people in the neighbourhood.

20. A very important correspondence has taken place between Mr. Stainsby of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind and the Board of Education, in regard to the education of blind children *above* the age of 16 years under the Education Act, 1902, which may, we hope, have very far-reaching consequences. The Board state that they "are of opinion that any power which may be possessed by a Local Education Authority to provide education for the Blind and Deaf children over the age of 16, is given only under Part two of the Education Act 1902, and is in respect of 'Higher Education.' Any proposal of a local Education Authority to aid the higher education of such children should be submitted to the Board of Education in definite terms for their consideration." This letter is most valuable and Mr. Stainsby assumes, rightly we hold, that "with the consent of the Board of Education, Local Education Authorities have permissive powers to continue the education of blind children over the age of 16. The definition of Higher Education as given in the Education Act, 1902, is so clear as to leave no doubt that all forms of education which are an extension of the elementary education of blind children, can be classed as 'Higher.'" Mr. Stainsby has communicated with all the Education Authorities who send children to the Birmingham

Institutions with the object of inducing them to adopt Part two of the Education Act (higher education) so far as the Blind are concerned. A debt of gratitude, and by no means the first, is due to Mr. Stainsby for thus trying to make clear the intentions of the Act in regard to the Blind.

21. In response to a suggestion kindly made, the Committee of the Gardner's Trust have had the leaflets, issued by them on Prevention of Blindness, printed on thick cards ready for hanging up in cottages. The information is printed in large as well as in small type, and can be obtained *gratis* on application to the Secretary of the Trust.

22. On April 22nd, Mr. W. H. Dixon, M.A., now residing in Oxford, gave an address to the Newport Blind Aid Society's Committee in the Y.M.C.A. rooms, narrating the work amongst the Blind in Australia, and comparing the efforts there made with those made in this country. The blind curates of Magor and Llandevaud gave a hearty welcome to their old college friend.

23. On September 19th, under the presidency of Mr. S. E. Helm, the prizes were distributed by the Lady Mayoress of Manchester, to the children at Henshaw's Blind Asylum. The Institution was thrown open, and the various rooms in which instruction was being given, were visited by many of those present. The pupils also went through some exercises in the gymnasium, and after the prize-giving provided an excellent concert.

24. The Editor of the *Weekly Summary*, Shere, Surrey, has issued some very pretty and appropriate Christmas cards for the Blind in raised designs and Braille words which we have had the pleasure to see. One represents "a peal of bells" with a verse from a carol, price 6d., postage 1d., another "four stars" also with a verse from a carol, price 4d., postage 1d., and another "linked horseshoes" with a quotation from Shakespeare, price 1d., or by post 1½d. The second series of "Day by Day" is also

published, price 9d., post free, in a safety cover. It contains 16 small sheets strongly bound in a cover, and has a text and short reading in prose or verse for every day of the month, and will be found most useful. The Christmas number of the *Weekly Summary* will be published on December 16th, and will contain in addition to the news of the week, "The Blind Child's Carol," by Charles Dickens, and other poems. To subscribers of more than three months, it will be presented free, to non-subscribers the price is 6d., post free. Orders should be sent as early as possible to the Editor of the *Weekly Summary*.

25. In a Blue-book recently issued by the Board of Education it is stated that the loans sanctioned (1902-3) for the provision of accommodation for blind and deaf children amounted to £21,000, of which London received £11,000.

26. A most interesting letter has been received from the Rev. C. B. Eyre, written on the shores of Lake Nyasa, on March 15th. It describes his visits to the many villages round the Lake. Mr. Eyre takes great interest in the Blind, and teaches the Braille system of reading and writing to them. Mr. Eyre is a member of the Universities' Mission, and was present at the Conference held in the Church House last year, being then in England for his holiday.

27. Mrs. Gray being unable to devote as much time as formerly to writing and lending the Braille music of her library, but being anxious that blind musicians should still have the use of her services and music as far as possible, hopes that by adopting the following plan she may be able to help her blind friends as formerly, and to circulate her music wherever it may be of service to them. The library comprises 160 books of piano music, 60 books of organ music, 360 songs, piano duets and studies, vocal duets, trios, quartets, unison songs, choruses and studies, etc. If new alphabetical catalogues are required, Mrs. Gray can get them printed, and they can be obtained at 1/- each; or if a sufficient number are applied for, the catalogue

could be embossed and copies obtained at 2/6 each. Supplementary lists could be issued, when any additions have been made to the library, and obtained at 1d. each if asked for with music. Printed music can be copied at the cost of 4d. per intermediate sheet. The music will be gladly lent, if the following rules are complied with:—

- 1.—Music must be borrowed quarterly.
- 2.—Parcels of music will be sent out on the first days of February, May, August, and November, and cannot be sent at other times.
- 3.—Music must be applied for, at latest, by the 15th of January, April, July, and October, in order that parcels may be prepared and sent out on the dates mentioned in Rule 2.
- 4.—The Catalogue number of music asked for must always be quoted.
- 5.—As the users of this music exceed 250 in number, and as between one and two thousand pieces are borrowed in the course of the year, borrowers must pay postage of their parcels. Sufficient stamps for postage must always be enclosed with request for music, and if more than are used for postage are sent, the balance will be returned.
- 6.—Music despatched on February 1st must be returned without fail by April 1st. That sent on May 1st by July 1st.; August 1st by October 1st.; November 1st by January 1st. If required longer it may be asked for again, and if it has not been waited for by others, it will be returned to borrower for two months further use.
- 7.—*Parcels* must be addressed until further notice to Mrs. Gray, c/o G. A. Western, Esq., Ravensbourne, Shortlands, Kent, but *Letters* may be sent to Mrs. Gray at the Manse, Barnsley, Yorks. Correspondence may be in Braille or otherwise as convenient.

No charge is made for the use of the music, but borrowers are asked to use it very carefully and always return it safely packed, and at the times mentioned in Rule 6.

28. The following books in Braille have been added to the Free Library at Oxford :—Selections from Aristotle's " Politics " (translated), " The Doctrine of the Prophets," and Gardiner's " Documents of the Puritan Revolution."

29. It was with much regret that we were unable to accept the kind invitation of the Chairman and Committee of the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, to witness the laying of the Foundation Stone of the Branch Kindergarten School in Court Oak Road, Harborne, on July 30th, 1903. The ceremony took place at 4 o'clock, when the stone was laid by the Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, Mrs. Hallowell Rogers. She was accompanied by the Lord Mayor, the Bishop of Coventry, the Rev. Canon Mansfield Owen, the Rev. W. J. Price, Vicar of Harborne, and many prominent citizens interested in the efficient education of the Blind. The building is the first to be specially constructed in England for teaching blind children by the kindergarten method, and will cost about £17,500, of which £5000 still remains to be raised. The School will provide accommodation for 40 children. Mr. A. L. Lowe, Chairman of the Committee, as reported by the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, spoke of the 60 years work of the Institution, and mentioned that it was begun in a backhouse in Ruston Street, the growth of the Institution showing its strength and also the need for its existence and its claim on public support. In 1848 goods were sold to the value of £6, and now the turnover is nearly £7,000. In 1851 there were 45 beds, and now there are 116, exclusive of the 40 to be provided in the new building. Four hundred pounds were paid in wages to the Blind 10 years ago, and now £1900 are paid. Only the previous week two of their scholars passed the examination for the associateship of the Royal College of Organists. The Lady Mayoress then laid the foundation stone, after which her Ladyship spoke of the value of separating children from adults. It was desirable that the children should have undivided attention, and that adults should have greater space for the work they were engaged in. If they could help the little ones to realise that there was a place in the world for them,

and that they were equal to fight the good fight, then the school would be a great success. Thanks were voted to the Lady Mayoress for laying the foundation stone, and in thanking the company on her behalf the Lord Mayor appealed to citizens of Birmingham to help such a good work forward by all the means in their power.

30. "Sight and Hearing in Childhood" is the title of a book by R. Brudenell Carter, F.R.C.S., and Arthur H. Cheatele, F.R.C.S., recently published by the Scientific Press, Ltd., 28, Southampton Street, Strand, W.C. The price is 2/- net. Part one is on "Sight" and is divided into five chapters, viz., the mechanism of vision, causes of defective vision, consequences of defective vision, aids to vision and the cultivation of vision. All the chapters are most interesting and instructive especially to those who are engaged in the education of children. Mr. Carter says, "at every school the vision of every new pupil should be tested and recorded on admission, as affording knowledge of facts absolutely essential to the proper conduct of his education." It will be remembered that Mr. Carter read the valuable paper on "Prevention of Blindness," at the Conference held last year at the Church House, Westminster.

31. The following is an extract from the *Birmingham Daily Mail*:—"A man who can be cheerful with the certain knowledge that in five years he will be totally blind surpasses even Mark Tapley in his optimistic philosophy. Yet I came across such a case this week, and I am bound to admit that the tragedy of the story appealed so vividly to me that I take the liberty of relating it. Walking up Corporation Street on Monday I casually met a young gentleman with whom I was intimately acquainted a few years ago. He was still the same genial individual I had always known, but when I enquired as to his health I was startled to learn that the greatest English authority on the human eye had told him that in about five years he would be totally blind. Consumption of the retina was going on, and no cure was possible. To most men the knowledge of the impending darkness would have meant little short of suicide. Not so, how-

ever, with the gentleman to whom I refer. His employers are cognisant with his misfortune, and make his labours as light as possible. When the time arrives when the world is shut out from his gaze, he knows that he will have to suffer no pecuniary trouble. When he knew the worst he faced the trouble like a man. He at once commenced to learn blind shorthand and reading, and is now under a teacher at the Blind Institution, Birmingham, where he told me he has met the happiest and most cheerful set of human beings as he has ever known in his life, in spite of the fact that they are all devoid of eyesight. What, however, struck me personally was the remarkable philosophy with which he discussed the inevitable. Some people may say this is not heroism; I am inclined to describe it as heroism of the first order, which everyone who has the blessing of good eyesight should appreciate."

32. The following is an extract from *The Standard*, of September 30th, in reference to the book by Miss Helen Keller, to whom we referred in No. 21, page 15. "The pursuit of knowledge under difficulties is nowhere more perfectly illustrated than in 'The Story of My Life' (Hodder and Stoughton), by Miss Helen Keller. Before she was two years old this young American lady of three-and-twenty became both blind and deaf as the outcome of illness. It seemed at first as if all her faculties were sealed for the rest of her life, and the beautiful child—for so her portraits show her to have been—appeared doomed to miserable and pathetic seclusion. The book traces in a minute and interesting manner how, at the age of seven, the girl—the daughter of a distinguished soldier who fought in the Civil War—by the aid of a skilful and patient lady-teacher, gradually learnt not merely how to read but how to write, and, more surprising still, to talk. A few of her letters are given in this volume—it is edited by a friend—and they reveal not merely an engaging personality, but also distinct literary aptitude. Half the charm of the book consists, indeed, in the personal qualities of the writer, and the other half in the strictly scientific account which her teacher, Miss Sullivan, gives of the ingenious method

by which her pupil's powers were gradually unfolded. Nothing in the record is more remarkable and touching than the description of the brave girl's determination to conquer as far as might be the cruel disabilities of her lot. One scarcely knows which to admire most, the devotion of Miss Sullivan to her task, or the courage and persistency of Miss Keller in the presence of difficulties which to other people, even to those who are most attached to her, seemed insurmountable. There are some delightful letters in the book from Whittier, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Bishop Phillips Brooks, and other well-known people. One of her great admirers is 'Mark Twain,' whose language about her is almost too extravagant to cite. Miss Keller's own recollections of great-hearted men and women, who, in her own phrase, have ministered to her happiness, are altogether charming, and in this connection a graceful tribute is paid to her oldest friend, the venerable Dr. Edward Everett Hale. 'My friends,' is her simple confession, 'have made the story of my life. In a thousand ways they have turned my limitations into beautiful privileges, and have enabled me to walk serene and happy in the shadow cast by my deep privation.' There are several interesting portraits in the volume, one which represents 'Mark Twain' standing by the blind girl's chair, and another of Miss Keller, Miss Sullivan, and Dr. Hale. There is nothing morbid or introspective about the record; on the contrary, it discloses one who is evidently endowed with a sunny temperament, a keen sense of humour, and an instinctive trust not merely that all's well with the world, but in the loftiest sense with herself."

33. We have to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of an interesting pamphlet, "*Assistance et éducation des enfants aveugles*" from and by Mr. Albert Léon. It is an extract from the reports presented to the third congress of public Aid and private Beneficence at Bordeaux.

34. Monsieur Maurice Legrand, an old pupil of the National Institution for the Blind in Paris, has been appointed organist of the Carmelite Church in London.

INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES.

Birkenhead. The report of the Birkenhead Society for the Blind for the year 1902 was adopted at the annual meeting, held on March 3rd. A workshop was opened on March 2nd, 1902, at 146, Oxton Road, and a sale room last November. There are 156 blind persons on the books, and 126 are visited by the blind teacher. There are six men and two women employed in the workshop.

Birmingham. The annual meeting of the General Institution for the Blind, Carpenter Road, Edgbaston, was held on July 2nd, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, when the 56th annual report for the year ended March 31st last was approved and adopted. The number of blind persons benefited was 615, viz., 134 resident, and 12 day pupils, 63 day workers, 369 adult blind, 11 teachers, etc. Details are given of the 19 pupils who left during the year, in regard to their start in life. From the Richard Middlemore Trust, grants amounting to £70 were made to 20 old pupils for the purchase of tools, materials, etc. £10,826 have been raised for the new Kindergarten School. The sales in the trading department amounted to £6,979, and £1,907 were paid in wages to blind workpeople, being increases in both cases over any previous year. The legacies amounted to £1,157, but the general account shows a deficit of £705. The adult blind are visited by a blind man and a blind woman. Mr. Arthur L. Lowe has been appointed chairman, in the place of Mr. E. M. Goodman, who retired on account of ill-health.

Carlisle. The 47th annual report of the Carlisle and Cumberland Association for the Blind for the year 1902 has been published, and was presented at the annual meeting on January 12th. Reference is made to the great loss sustained by the death of Miss H. D. Johnson, who founded the workshops, and has been hon. secretary for 31 years. There are 25 blind persons employed, and the sales amounted to £2,192. The loss on trading was £133. The teacher paid 975 visits amongst the local blind. The workshop was erected in Lonsdale Street in 1879, and cost £3,715, which sum was mainly raised by the late Miss Johnson and her friends.

Leicester. The 44th annual report of the Leicester Association for promoting the general welfare of the Blind, 50, Granby Street, for the year ended December 31st, 1902, was approved at the annual meeting, held on June 11th, when the Mayor presided. Sixteen men and 12 women have been constantly employed in the workshop, whilst four other blind persons have had work provided for them for shorter periods. The sales amounted to £3,464, and the blind workers received £745, including £148 in addition to their actual earnings. All blind persons (192) in the town and county are visited by a sighted Biblewoman. Four aged blind women reside in the Cottage Home. Allowances are granted to several blind persons. The legacies amounted to £94 15s.

London. (a) The report of the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, W., for the year ended December 31st, 1902, is published. This Institution was founded in 1856 by Miss Gilbert, the blind daughter of the Bishop of Chichester. Pupils must guarantee a weekly payment of six shillings for basket-making, and four shillings for all other trades taught. During the year the sales amounted to £12,037; £2,237 were paid in wages; £692 in gifts and supplementary wages, and £322 in pensions. Reference is made to the fact that, owing to keen competition, the Committee were obliged to take contracts at a considerable loss in order to keep the workmen employed. The loss on the year's work was £1,560. The manufacture of mattresses and bedding was introduced on the 12th of January last; 106 blind persons were benefited by the Institution.

(b) The 65th annual report of the London Society for Teaching the Blind to Read, 10, Upper Avenue Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W., was presented at the annual general meeting, held at the Institution on April 25th, when the Master of the Clothworkers Company presided. The history of the Society from its foundation is given at the beginning of the report. The number of the pupils (resident and day) was 71, viz., 37 boys and 34 girls. The legacies amounted to £472, and the net

receipts for industrial work, including embossing, were £567. In the Braille printing department, several books have been published, and also "The Hampstead," a monthly magazine in Braille.

(c) The report of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E., for the year 1902, presented at the annual meeting held on June 24th, presided over by the Right Hon. Lord Howard de Walden, shows that during the year there was an average of 157 pupils. The musical examination was conducted by Dr. August Manns, who praises very highly the result of the teaching, especially the clear enunciation of the words and the perfect intonation and unwavering retention of the musical pitch. Four students passed the second year's Government Examination for Teachers, and two the King's Scholarship Examination. Two students passed the Associate Examination of the College of Organists. There is a very interesting letter from a blind Armenian girl, who has been trained at the College. There is a deficit of £792 on the year's working, notwithstanding the fact that £2,000 were raised by the special concert at Queen's Hall.

(d) The report of the Surrey Association for the Blind, 90, Peckham Road, S.E., for the year ended April 30th last, shows that the wages paid to the blind workers amounted to £627, and that the cost of the free meals was £257. The sales amounted to £1,347. The work and aims of the Association are shown very clearly and forcibly by means of questions and answers.

Northampton. The report of the Northampton and County Association for the Blind for 1902 shows continued progress, and that there are 12 men and 4 women employed in the workshop, and that the sales amounted to £1,115. A strenuous effort is to be made this month to raise £1,500 by means of a bazaar, in order to provide more commodious premises nearer the centre of Northampton. There is a Blind Sick Benefit Society, and also a working men's Committee, which contributed £25 last year to the Association.

Nottingham. The annual meeting of the Midland Institution for the Blind, Chaucer Street, Nottingham, was held on July 17th, and the report for the year ended March 31st last was presented and approved. The report covers the first complete year under the new scheme, by which the whole of the Institution is devoted to technical and manual training and industrial work. The adult workmen and women live in their own houses, but the young men are boarded in three houses and the girls reside in a home under the care of a matron. On March 31st there were 23 young men, 15 girls and 35 out pupils and workpeople, making 73 in all. The sales amounted to £5539, the largest sum hitherto recorded. Old pupils were granted £96 last year, chiefly for the purchase of materials. Important alterations in the premises are in contemplation.

York. The annual meeting of the Yorkshire School for the Blind was held at the King's Manor House, York, on March 13th, when the 65th annual report was presented. On December 31st, 1902, there were 72 pupils (46 boys and 26 girls) in the school. Special grants amounting to £151 were made to former pupils and aged blind persons, and this year £200 have been voted for this most worthy object. The wages and supplements paid to blind workmen amounted to £1,236, and the sales to £4,075. There are eight women in the Scarborough Home. Legacies amounted to £558. The workshop opened at Middlesbrough in 1898 has now been taken over by a local committee, as from January 1st, 1903, and the indebtedness on account of the upkeep up to that date has been written off by the Committee of the School.

ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

Two events in connection with this well-known College seem to call for special mention. The first was a grand evening concert given at the Albert Hall on Thursday, July 2nd, at 8 p.m., by the students of the College, most kindly assisted by the students of the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music, and the Guildhall School of Music. It is hardly

necessary to say that under these conditions a truly enjoyable time for lovers of music was provided, but when we add that Madame Albani and Mr. Watkin Mills kindly undertook the solos, it will be understood that the pleasure of the evening reached high water mark. Mendelssohn's ever lovely "Hear my Prayer" was rendered with the utmost delicacy and precision, and a very interesting item in the programme was the performance by the Misses Crowley, Davis, Lucas and Richardson (~~Gardner scholars at the College~~) of Bach's Concerto in A minor for four pianofortes. The *Standard* remarked that these artistes overcame the intricate technicalities of the music with remarkable ease, and their efforts would have been noteworthy even had they been possessed of the power to see. Mr. Horace Watling, ~~also~~ a Gardner scholar, delighted the audience by his performance of the solo part of Raff's Suite for Pianoforte and Orchestra, Op. 200. The part singing was excellent, and evidently greatly delighted the audience, especially in the old time madrigal, "As Vesta was from Latmos Hill descending." The concert concluded with Sir Charles Stanford's setting of Lord Tennyson's ballad, "The Revenge." About sixty ladies kindly volunteered to give their services in selling programmes.

Another event of great importance in the history of the College was the Annual Prize Festival held on Saturday, July 25th, at 3.15 p.m., when the prizes were presented to the successful students by Alderman and Sheriff Sir George Truscott, Lady Truscott being unavoidably prevented from attending. There were also present Alderman Sir William Treloar, the Mayor and Mayoress of Hackney, the Mayor and Mayoress of Deptford, The Right Hon. J. Campbell, M.P., and Miss Campbell, Miss Mundella, Mr. E. J. Dixon, Master of the Borderers' Company, and many others. After the company had seen demonstrations of music, typewriting, pianoforte tuning, gymnastics, swimming displays, etc., given by the pupils, they assembled on the parade ground, where the presentation of the prizes took place. An interesting feature of the occasion was a testimonial given to Miss Emily Lucas, consisting of a hood, gown, and trencher cap, on her having taken on July 18th, her

diploma in London as a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. This testimonial was subscribed for by the entire staff of professors and teachers, and all the students. Miss Lucas was trained at the College, where she held a Gardner Scholarship. After the distribution of prizes, Sir George Truscott, as reported by the *City Press*, expressed the regret the Lord Mayor and Lady Truscott felt at being unable to be present, as also Sir Sydney Waterlow, during whose mayoralty the College had its inception at the Mansion House. After paying tribute to Dr. Campbell's efforts in the cause of the Blind, Sir George remarked that society generally was greatly indebted to him, for 89 per cent. of the students passing through the College became money-earning members of the community. Altogether, past students were earning something like £30,000 a year. They could the better imagine what that meant if they considered that if all those blind men and women were in a helpless state they would have to be kept by the public. None of the work that was carried on at the College could be maintained without money. Recently the Committee met to consider whether there could be any curtailment in the expenditure, and the only conclusion they came to was that they could not reduce it without spoiling the work of the College. Thus, it was essential that the subscriptions should be increased. It was a grand work—he thought, indeed, that they might call it a divine work, for it was nothing less than giving sight to the blind. In conclusion, Sir George alluded to the interesting fact that he remembered accompanying his father twenty-three years ago, when, as Lord Mayor, he took the chair on a similar occasion.

BRITISH BRAILLE COMMITTEE.

The following list gives the names and addresses of the Committee :—

TAYLOR, Rev. A., *Chairman*, British and Foreign Bible Society,
146, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

*AWCOCK, Mrs., Bedmont, King's Langley, Herts.

BAINBRIGGE, Miss E. M., 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

*BLOOMFIELD, Mr. C. E., 95, Gurney Road, Stratford, E.

- *BUTLER, Miss J., 22, Fairbridge Road, Upper Holloway, N.
 *CAMPBELL, Dr. F. J., Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E.
 CORBET-DYER, Mr. W., London Society for Teaching the Blind, 10, Upper Avenue Road, Hampstead, N.W.
 DOUGLAS-HAMILTON, Miss L., 8, Onslow Square, S.W.
 *HENRY, Mr. A., 73, Redcliffe Gardens, S.W.
 ILLINGWORTH, Mr. W. H., Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh.
 *LAUPMANN, Mr. J. C., 12, Blagden Street, Lewisham, S.E.
 LITTLEWOOD, Mr. W., School for the Blind, Wavertree, Liverpool.
 LOHR, Miss C. E., 78, Dynham Road, West Hampstead, N.W.
 *MEAD, Mr. W., 95, Gurney Road, Stratford, E.
 *PEARSON, Mr. A., Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E.
 *RANGER, Dr. A. W. G., 2, Warham Road, South Croydon, S.E.
 RIX, Mrs., Headland Cottage, Limpsfield, Surrey.
 *RUSSELL, Miss H. C., Clifton Lodge, West Norwood, S.E.
 *SAMUEL, Miss F., 49, Gloucester Road, Regents Park, N.W.
 SCOTT, Miss E. R., The Mount, Shere, Guildford.
 STAINSBY, Mr. H., General Institution for the Blind, Carpenter's Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
 *TAYLOR, Mr. H. M., The Yews, Cambridge.
 *TOWSE, Capt. E. B. B., V.C., Long Meadow, Goring, near Oxon.
 BURNS, Mr. Frederick A. J., *Hon. Secretary*, 206, Great Portland Street, W.

NOTE.—Those marked with an asterisk (*) are blind,

The Third Meeting of the above Committee was held on Saturday, July 4th, at the Bible House, Queen Victoria Street; 19 members being present.

The Committee continued its consideration of Grade I., and the following resolutions were provisionally adopted:—

1. That, as a general rule, the order of punctuation and composition signs at the commencement of a sentence, phrase, or line of poetry, be: bracket, inverted comma, italic sign, capital sign. And at the end: comma or other stop, inverted comma, bracket, poetry sign.

2. That dot 6 be used for the interrogation sign.
3. That all other punctuation signs remain as at present.
4. That a paragraph be indicated by three clear spaces, but that if the new paragraph deals with a fresh subject, or is a numbered section of the text, it shall commence in the third space of a new line.

5. That an ellipsis, signified in print by a series of asterisks or other marks, shall be indicated by the group of dots, 

6. That it is inadvisable that any note in the text shall exceed three words, and that other notes be indicated in the

text thus,  referring to number of the note, which shall be placed at the end of the book.

7. That the capital sign be used before Roman numerals.
8. That the accent sign shall also be used to indicate the cedilla, diphthong, and the diæresis.

9. That the dash shall follow immediately the preceding word, followed by a space. Also that a dash shall begin a line.

The Committee also resolved that in Grade II. any three of the word signs, *and for of the with*, may follow each other without space, except where the sense does not permit.

The Committee proceeded to consider the precise meaning to be attached to each of the Braille signs used singly, in particular

the subject of the symbols  for *Christ, God, Jesus, Lord*, was criticised, mainly on the ground of their infrequency in general literature, and partly from a feeling that the use of the contractions tends to irreverence. The alternatives before the Committee are—(a) to retain the present symbols; (b) in all cases to write the word in full; (c) to use the letters as at present, but prefix the capital sign.

The Fourth Meeting of the above Committee was held on Saturday, August 1st, at the Bible House, Queen Victoria Street; 19 members being present.

The Committee on reviewing the work of the previous meeting decided that the sign for the colon and interrogation

marks, and also the use of italics, be not definitely settled without further discussion.

On resuming the criticism of the contractions for the names of the Deity, viz. :—Christ, God, Jesus, Lord, it was decided that the contractions be no longer used, but that the words be written in full.

The following resolutions were also provisionally adopted :—

1. That the principle of initial letters for contractions be rigorously used throughout the whole of Grade II.

2. That the following letters represent words, but only when standing alone :— d—did. e—every. f—from. h—have. m—more. p—people. q—quite. t—that. v—very. y—you.

3.—That the following letters be used as words when standing alone, and also as parts of words when preceded by dot 4 :— l—like. n—not. r—right. s—some. w—will.

4. That the following letters preceded by dot 4 be used as words and also as parts of words :— 4 dot e—ever. 4 dot f—father. 4 dot m—mother. 4 dot o—one. 4 dot p—part.

5. That the present digraphs of Line 4 be adopted except *ch* and *gh*. which are reserved for further discussion.

6. That the sign $\frac{\bullet}{\text{—}\bullet}$ be used to represent the letters *an*.

The letters *ar*, *on*, or *it*, were suggested as the signification of the sign $\frac{\bullet}{\text{—}\bullet}$ but this point will be further discussed.

7. That the following signs be used as words, but only when standing alone :—

$\frac{\bullet\bullet}{\text{—}\bullet}$ —shall. $\frac{\bullet\bullet}{\text{—}\bullet}$ —this. $\frac{\bullet}{\text{—}\bullet}$ —which. $\frac{\bullet\bullet}{\text{—}\bullet}$ —own.

8. That the following sign be used as a word when standing alone, and also as part of a word when preceded by dot 4 :—

$\frac{\bullet}{\text{—}\bullet}$ —ought.

The Fifth Meeting of the above Committee was held on Saturday, September 26th, at the Bible House, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.; 21 members being present.

The Committee revised carefully the contractions proposed at the previous meeting, with the result that a few alterations

and additions were made to the list already published. The principle of initial letters was reaffirmed, though a few exceptions were felt to be inevitable.

The following contractions have now been provisionally adopted :—

1. Letters representing words, but only when standing alone :— b—but. d—did. e—every. f—from. h—have. m—more. p—people. q—quite. t—that. u—unto. y—you.

2. Letters representing words when standing alone, and parts of words when preceded by dot 4 :—c—can. g—great. j—just. k—know. l—like. n—not. r—right. s—some. v—very. w—will.

3. Letters preceded by dot 4 used as words and parts of words :— 4 dot b—before. 4 dot d—day. 4 dot e—ever. 4 dot f—father. 4 dot i—ill. 4 dot m—mother. 4 dot o—one. 4 dot p—part. 4 dot u—under.

The signs of line 4 were then reconsidered, and after considerable discussion it was resolved that they should retain their present signification of *ch gh sh th wh ed er ou* and *ow* respectively; the sign *ch*, however, being used without its present restriction. The following contractions were also adopted :— *ch*—child. *sh*—shall. *th*—this. *wh*—which. *er*—were. *ou*—ought. *ow*—own; the contractions *child* and *ought* to be used in combination when preceded by dot 4.

RECENT LITERATURE.

During the past few months the following works have been stereotyped in Braille by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

T. Carlyle's The French Revolution (interpointed)	s.	d.
first eight vols. each	3	6
Bernardin's Paul and Virginia (interpointed) 2 vols. each	3	6
Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire		
(interpointed) vol. i.	3	6
Yonge's History of France (interpointed) in 1 vol.	3	6

In Moon's type by Moon's Society, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton :—

Barriers Burned Away, vols. i., ii., iii. & iv. . . each	s.	d.
The Pilgrim's Progress in Tamil, vols. i. & ii. . . each	3	6
St. Matthew's Gospel in Tamil, vols. i. & ii. . . each	3	0

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 25.

JANUARY 20TH, 1904.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 26th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

The special attention of managers and secretaries is called to the last few lines in paragraph 23, where it will be seen that the Oxford Education Authority has decided, with the sanction of the Board of Education, to pay the school fees for two lads over the age of 16, the funds being provided under Part II. of the Education Act, 1902. We believe that this is the first occasion on which assistance has been granted by a local Education Authority for the higher education of the Blind under the Act of 1902, and we earnestly hope that with this excellent precedent before us, there may be no difficulty in obtaining such necessary assistance in the future from other Education Authorities.

The two special articles which appear in this number will be read, we feel sure, with much interest. The one entitled "Technical Instruction for the Blind of London" is of the utmost importance, as it deals with two difficulties often referred to in these pages, and experienced by all who are interested in the Blind, viz, (1) The question of providing the necessary means to enable the Blind above 16 years of age to receive thorough technical training, and (2) the need of more workshops. For meeting the first of these difficulties permissive power is

given to the Guardians of the Poor, but the only Charity, apart from the Institutions themselves, which essays to give assistance for this specific purpose is Gardner's Trust for the Blind, yet notwithstanding the fact that the Committee assist on an average 170 cases annually in this way, they do but touch the fringe of a large subject, which, as stated in their report for 1899, "seems to be one that ought to be dealt with, as a whole, by the State, in a liberal manner, as recommended in the report of the Royal Commission on the Blind." It is, therefore, much to be hoped that the London County Council will set an example in regard to this all important question by carrying into effect the recommendation of the London School Board.

As regards the second difficulty, viz., the provision of more workshops in London, the recommendation although made to the London School Board by the Blind and Deaf Scholarships and Apprenticing Committee, does not seem to have been passed on to the London County Council. That there is need of more workshops we think that no one can gainsay.

The article, "The Work of the Sunbeam Mission amongst Blind Children," by Miss Beatrice Taylor, the devoted and energetic Hon. Secretary, gives an interesting account of a branch society of recent growth, which tends to make many children happy and often provides them with life long friends interested in their welfare. The Society is self-supporting, and doing much valuable work in creating more sympathy and friends for blind children.

We are pleased to state that the number of subscribers to *The Blind* this year has again largely increased.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of Charles Edward Cole on October 13th at the age of 30 after a short illness. Mr. Cole was studying music under Dr. Dodds at Oxford with the intention of qualifying for the degree of A.R.C.O. this January. In August he was not feeling very

well and went to his father's house to recruit himself, intending to resume work on September 1st., but pneumonia supervened, and he never returned to Oxford. He was married about two years ago and leaves a widow. Mr. Cole began his education at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, and from there passed to the Worcester Blind College and subsequently went to Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1896. The following year he returned to his old college as assistant master, and remained there about four years. He then obtained the appointment of organist and choirmaster at Holy Trinity Church, Oxford. He took his M.A. degree on March 14th, 1901.

2. It gives us much pleasure to announce that Mr. John Whiteside took the degree of Bachelor of Music at Oxford in November last, and that the degree was conferred on him on November 19th. Mr. Whiteside received his early training at the Royal Normal College, and since leaving the college he has pursued with great perseverance his studies on his own account, taking the diploma of F.R.C.O., and also passing the four examinations preliminary to the one for Mus. Bac. The 1st examination consisted of two languages—Latin and French being selected; the 2nd, Harmony and Counterpoint in 4 parts: the 3rd, Composition of a difficult Exercise; the 4th, Harmony and Counterpoint in 5 parts, Fugue, Orchestration, Musical Form, and History. A critical knowledge of certain full scores was also required, and one of the scores selected was Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, which meant the memorising of 380 large sized Braille sheets—in itself no mean task; Mr. Whiteside is organist at the Parish Church, Morecambe, under the Rev. Canon C. V. Gorton, Rector of Morecambe.

3. Mr. G. F. Whittleton went into residence at Wadham College, Oxford, last October.

4. Mr. John H. G. Smith to whom we referred in our last number, paragraph 2, took his B.A. degree at Oxford on October 23rd,

5. Mr. Alfred Hollins, formerly a student of the Royal Normal College, and now an organist in Edinburgh, gave an excellent recital on the new organ at Golcar Parish Church, Huddersfield, in November last, before a crowded congregation. The recital opened with Mendelssohn's Sonata No. 1, and included the Prelude to Parsifal, Bach's familiar fugue in D, a scherzo by Pettersson, &c. The pedalling was extremely clever, and all the compositions were accurately and artistically rendered with much freedom and firmness.

6. Our readers will be interested to learn that Mr. F. W. Priest, A.R.C.O., who is a Gardner scholar at the Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, has a short cantata in the press, on the subject of "The Centurion's Servant." The Work is laid out for two solo voices (Tenor and Baritone) and Chorus, and will be published by Messrs. Novello & Co. Mr. A. R. Gaul (Composer of "The Holy City" &c. &c.) is seeing the work through the press, and we are in a position to state that Mr. Gaul thinks very highly of it, and he believes that with proper encouragement its youthful composer will bring very great credit to himself and to the Institution in which he received his training. We hope in a future number of this magazine to review the cantata.

7. The Rev. St. Clare Hill, Principal of the Leatherhead School for the Blind, was the special speaker at a meeting held on November 3rd to celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the opening of the Bradford Institution for the Blind. He referred to the good work being done there, especially by the employment of so many blind women.

8. The students of the Royal Normal College for the Blind serenaded Dr. Manns on November 9th, the day on which the King conferred on him the honour of knighthood, and Sir August wrote Dr. Campbell a very kind letter of thanks in which he said, "Their (the students) beautiful singing touched my heart, and I beg to assure them that Lady Manns and myself

fully appreciate the compliment you and my young friends paid us as a tribute from your College towards the honour His Majesty the King has so graciously conferred upon me by the bestowal of knighthood."

9. Five pupils from the Exeter Institution for the Blind presented themselves in December last at the examination by the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and all passed successfully, including Mr. Frederick Coaker, 17 years of age, who passed with honours, obtaining 89 marks out of 100 in Grade iii. organ. As only four honours were awarded at this centre out of 50 passes, it reflects great credit on Mr. Coaker and his music master, that one of the honours has been carried off by a blind boy.

10. We have heard from Mr. Hendry, Manager of the North Adelaide Institution for the Blind, South Australia, from Capetown on his return voyage to Australia, and he requests us to acknowledge in these pages his "gratitude to the managers of the several Institutions visited, for their courtesy and consideration, and to explain that it was solely want of time that prevented him from visiting all the Institutions." Mr. Hendry also says "In visiting the Institutions in Great Britain I am pleased to be able to state that in each there was a good deal to be admired, and in every case something worthy of imitation. I found the heads of the various Institutions most courteous and willing to impart information of a helpful character." All those who had the privilege and pleasure of an interview with Mr. Hendry must have soon realized that they were in the presence of a most capable manager with a pleasing and persuasive manner, whose life was wrapped up in the interests of the Blind. We trust that he will have safely arrived at his destination by the time these lines appear, and that the information he gleaned whilst amongst us may not only prove useful in drawing up his report for the South Australian Government, but also be helpful in promoting the welfare of the Blind in Australia, which he has so much at heart.

11. Mr. George Bruford of Cricklewood has been in correspondence with the Postmaster General in reference to the charge of 1d. on delivery of letters or small packages in Braille writing, and it is gratifying to note that from the 1st instant "papers impressed for the use of the Blind," not exceeding two ounces in weight, are transmissible at the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate under the "Half-penny Packet" regulations. Mr. Bruford rightly argued that the Blind have no equivalent for a postcard, and we are indebted to him for having obtained this concession.

12. The lectures of the Upper Norwood Literary and Scientific Society have been held this winter in the hall of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, and have proved most interesting and instructive to the teachers and students who were permitted to be present.

13. We are pleased to hear that there are five blind masseuses engaged at Smedley's, and one at the Peebles, Hydropathic establishments. They are all giving complete satisfaction and doing excellent work, in fact the masseuse at Peebles has been so successful in pleasing her employer that her salary has been more than doubled during the last few months. Active steps are being taken to start the Institute for Massage by the Blind, but great difficulties are being encountered in the way of securing suitable central premises in London.

14. The Bazaar held on October 27th, 28th and 29th, at the Corn Exchange, Northampton, to raise funds on behalf of the Local Association for promoting the general welfare of the Blind, was a great success, the net proceeds amounting to £1247 18s. od., including special donations to the Bazaar Fund. The official handbook, of which a copy was kindly sent us, consisted of 128 pages with many illustrations and with full information about the Association and the purpose to which the proceeds of the Bazaar would be applied. The book was exceedingly well got up and reflects great credit on the editor. It is pleasing to note that although the 4,000 copies, which were distributed free, cost £52 10s. od. for printing alone, exclusive

of the blocks and postage, the loss amounted to only 8d. owing to the payments for advertisements. The souvenir pictorial postcards, of which 1,000 were printed, must have proved useful in advertising the Bazaar. We heartily congratulate the Committee, especially Mr. Frederic Ellen, who acted as Hon. Treasurer and on whose shoulders as chairman of the executive committee the chief work of the organisation of the Bazaar fell, on the eminently satisfactory result. We hope that we shall soon hear that the balance of £252 to complete the requisite £1,500 has been raised, and that larger and more commodious workshops have been provided.

15. A Braille Chess Club was started in June 1902, and there are now fourteen members. The annual subscription for membership is 1/6, and the subscriptions have hitherto been used for giving prizes to winners of tourneys. These are played by correspondence. It is in contemplation to start a chess library in connection with the Club, so that members may have an opportunity of consulting some of the standard works on the game. The Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer of the Club is Mr. Francis H. Merrick, Manor Farm, Shepperton, who will be pleased to answer any inquiries from those who may wish to become members. The British Chess Company have made excellent cheap chess and draughts boards and men for the Blind to use, which can be obtained at the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

16. The following is a copy of a resolution unanimously passed at the Annual Gathering of the staff and blind workers of the Yorkshire School for the Blind held on December 18th, on the proposition of Mr. A. N. Shaw, B.A. Oxon. :—"That the cordial thanks of the blind workers of the Yorkshire School for the Blind (The Wilberforce Memorial) be offered to the York City Council for their recent action in providing a supply of Braille literature at the City Library, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Alderman William McKay, J.P., Chairman of the City Council." Other Municipal bodies please copy.

17. Lady Sotheby and the Committee of the Workshops for the Blind at 268, Tottenham Court Road, W., were "at home" on December 14th, and the guests had an opportunity of seeing the blind workers engaged in their respective employments.

18. On Tuesday, October 6th, a matinée performance of "The Merchant of Venice," by Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean Company, was held at Birkenhead in aid of the local workshops for the Blind. The performance delighted the audience, but unfortunately the excessive rain no doubt kept many away who intended to be present. During an interval between the acts Mr. Gatehouse, the president and founder of the Society, stated that it had been formed in 1899, and that at the present time there were 132 blind persons on the books, most of whom are visited regularly by a blind teacher, whilst others are employed at the workshop opened in 1902 at 146, Oxton Road. Mr. Gatehouse explained that the workshop could only be carried on at an annual loss, and made an eloquent appeal for more local support.

19. Mr. T. Chodwick Brown of Hampstead, has presented us with a special walking stick for the use of blind persons, designed and made by himself. He has not taken out a patent for it, but hopes that the design may be found useful to those blind people who use a stick. The stick is an ordinary strong cane, and close by the handle is a small bicycle bell. At the other end instead of the usual ferrule there is a wheel. The blind person, therefore, by pushing the stick in front feels at once any inequality in the surface of the ground, as for instance, the drop on the side of the pavement. Mr. Brown informs us that the cost of the materials for the stick in question was 6½d.

20. The Braille Correspondence Club, started by Mrs. Phelps, Knockwood, Shortlands, Kent, in 1900, is increasing rapidly in numbers. There are now 198 members in the British branch, and branches have also been formed in Canada, America, France and other countries. There is no subscription

to the Club. More sighted members are much needed, and more blind members will be cordially welcomed.

21. Classes in boot and shoe mending were started in October last at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, and it is expected that the Committee will be able to employ one man to do the repairing for the Institution, as there is sufficient work to keep him in constant employment in repairing alone.

22. Robert Hawkings, a journeyman matmaker, aged 69, celebrated his jubilee at the Exeter Institution for the Blind on November 9th, when a tea was given to all the inmates by the Committee, and a purse with money contributed by the Committee, pupils and workmen was presented to Hawkings. He entered the Institution on November 9th, 1853, as a pupil, when 12 years of age, and has worked there ever since.

23. The following memorandum with regard to the claims of the Blind to participate in the higher education provided under Part II of the Education Act of 1902, has been sent to several Local School Authorities by the Committee of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind. It is hoped that the occupations mentioned in the memorandum as "higher education" may not be objected to when the limited number of occupations open to the Blind are taken into consideration :—

"In 1893 the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act came into operation, being the first time the education of the Blind became compulsory. It enacts that blind children between the ages of 5 and 16 shall attend a certified School for the Blind. So far as it goes, this Act has been most useful, but it does not go far enough, inasmuch as the education of the Blind is not and cannot be completed by the time they arrive at the age of 16.

The principal feature which is aimed at in their education is the training in some useful profession or trade which will enable them to earn their own livelihood. Such training, with the consent and approval of the Board of Education, is given under

the Blind and Deaf Act, 1893, and towards this special training the Board of Education make a grant of £2 2s. per head per annum. In the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, pupils commence at the age of 14 to devote half their time to the trade or profession by which they hope eventually to earn their own living.

The Education Act, 1902 (Part II. 2. (1) Higher Education) states that :—

“The Local Education Authority shall consider the educational needs of their area, and take such steps as seem to them desirable, after consultation with the Board of Education, to supply or aid the supply of education other than elementary, and to promote the general co-ordination of all forms of education.”

And in reply to an enquiry as to whether the education of the Blind could be continued under Part II of the Act, the Board of Education, under date 23rd July, 1903, replied :—

“The Board are of opinion that any power which may be possessed by a Local Education Authority to provide education for blind and deaf children over the age of 16, is given only under Part II of the Education Act of 1902, and is in respect of higher education.

Any proposal of a Local Education Authority to aid the higher education of such children should be submitted to the Board of Education in definite terms for their consideration.”

The Education Authorities do therefore possess the necessary powers to provide for the education of the Blind over the age of 16 years.

It is requested that Education Authorities should submit to the Board of Education proposals for the higher education of the Blind under Part II. of the Education Act, 1902, and it is suggested that these proposals should include the following :—

(a) That if, on arriving at the age 16, a blind pupil who is being educated in a School for the Blind, is shown to be making satisfactory progress and will be likely to benefit by further education, he or she shall be allowed to remain under tuition

until such time as his or her training shall have been completed, provided such period does not exceed 5 years. The period of 5 years is based on a recommendation of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Blind and Deaf, paragraph 61 :—

“ We think that from 16 to 21, the School Authority should have the power and duty to assist liberally all necessitous blind persons to maintain themselves while learning a trade.”

See also paragraph 247 (2).

(b) That any person over the age of 16 who shall become blind, shall be granted facilities for education similar to those embodied in Section (a), the period of instruction in this instance also not to exceed 5 years. See Report of Royal Commission on the Blind and Deaf, paragraph 71 :—

“ It has been mentioned to us as desirable, and it appears to us reasonable, that in order to enable them to earn their own livelihood, assistance should be given, while learning a trade at an Institution, to persons losing their sight in adult life, in the same way and on the same principle as to those at an earlier age, during their industrial training.”

Paragraph 247 (4) gives the ages of 21 and 50 as those between which adults should receive equal benefit with those under 21.

(c) That a report of the conduct and progress of blind pupils receiving instruction under Part II. of the Act, shall be submitted annually to the authority responsible for the education of such blind pupils, and that the said authority shall have power to cause the tuition to cease if in their opinion the conduct and progress of a pupil are not satisfactory.

(d) That the higher education of the Blind should include instruction in the following subjects, together with others which may from time to time be considered suitable:—Music, Pianoforte-tuning, Typewriting and Shorthand, Basket-making, Brush-making, Mat-making, Boot and Shoe-making and repairing, Knitting (Hand and Machine), Machine-sewing, Chair-seating, Gardening, Poultry-keeping, Mattress-making, Shampooing.”

N.B.—Out of 30 pupils (the number the Birmingham

Education Committee will generally have in this Institution) it is computed that about 13 will be over 16 years of age. The Town Clerk of Oxford has written the Secretary of the Institution that the Board of Education have consented to the continuation of the training of two boys until they are 18 years of age, which in these particular instances was the period asked for. The full fees, £26 5s. each, will be paid. THIS LETTER SHOWS CLEARLY THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION WILL CONSENT TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, WHEN ASKED TO DO SO—
verb. sap.

24. A set of three Picture Postcards. price 6d. the set, with sketches of the King's Manor, are on sale at the Yorkshire School for the Blind. The pictures are reproduced in facsimile from original water colour drawings and are most artistic. We are pleased to hear that there was a very large sale of the cards at Christmastide.

25. The following new books have been recently published, "Laura Bridgman, Dr. Howe's famous pupil and what he taught her," by Maud Howe and Florence Howe Hall; Publishers, Little, Brown & Co., Boston; price 1½ dollars. "Les Aveugles par un Aveugle," 3rd edition, price 2 francs. "Impressions et Souvenirs d'Aveugle," price 3½ francs, and "Les Sœurs Aveugles," price 3½ francs, all by Monsieur Maurice de la Sizeranne, 31, Avenue de Breteuil, Paris.

26. The following books in Braille have been recently added to the Oxford Free Library:—Hobbs' Leviathan, chapters 13 to 16; Æschylus' Eumenides, and Stubbs' Constitutional History of the 14th Century.

27. A student from the Halifax School for the Blind, Nova Scotia, who is studying at the Emerson School of Oratory, Boston, writes in regard to the Stainsby-Wayne shorthand typewriting machine: "I find the Shorthand writer invaluable. I sit in the class with the other students, and take verbatim reports of the lectures, and these I can study at my leisure." A

strong neat case covered with coloured cloth, with straps and handle for carrying, can now be obtained for the machine, price 2/6.

28. Mr. J. J. Plater is an energetic member of the Yardley Rural District Council, and recently moved a resolution, which was carried, appointing a committee to consult the British Electric Traction Co., as to the lighting of the main roads in Yardley with electric light. Mr. Plater has also written to the Local Government Board, pointing out that employment in the way of typewriting might be given in the offices to some of the Blind who can use the Braille shorthand typewriting machine.

29. Captain F. P. Webber, to whom we referred in the last number in connection with poultry farming by the Blind, has removed to Highfield House, Stockton, Rugby.

30. *The Braille Review*, started just a year ago, now appears with a cover, which enables it to further extend its usefulness by fuller notices of publications for the use of the Blind, etc. It is published, price 1/-, post free, per annum, by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

31. The Braille Magazine "*Playtime*" has been discontinued.

32. A blind Spanish composer, Señor Lopez Dobesa, has achieved a veritable triumph in Madrid with his comic opera, "*Angeles*,"

33. Monsieur Sergent, 1, Rue Colbert, Tours, offers to blind musicians a large selection of music at a reduction from 20 per cent. to 60 per cent. Catalogue sent on demand.

34. Signor Brignoli Batistel, Trescore-Valncaris, Bergamo, Italy, has started *La Gazzetta Musicale*, a Braille journal, which appears every month, and contains vocal and instrumental music, both sacred and secular. Subscription, 12 francs per annum.

INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES.

Bolton. The 36th annual report of the Bolton Schools and Workshops for the Blind for the year ended the 31st of March last was adopted at the annual meeting held on June 17th, and shows that 23 men and 4 women have had regular employment. The sales amounted to £1,737. There was an increase of £345 in the Brush department, but a small decrease in the Skip and Mat departments. A new concrete floor has been put down in the Skip room, and a new floor and ventilator in the Pan room, whilst the Buildings have been pointed outside, and painted both inside and out.

Hanley. The first annual meeting of the North Staffordshire workshops for the Blind at Hanley was held on October 28th, when the Mayor of Hanley presided. Mr. E. V. Greatbatch, who initiated the scheme, submitted the report, which was very satisfactory for the first year's working. An average of 8 lads had been attending at the workshop during the year, and now there were 11 male and 3 female workers, the latter being employed chiefly in making handles for slop pails. The sales amounted to £425, and the loss on working to £235. £254 were paid in wages, and £34 in supplementary grants. A gift of £150 has been made by two ladies towards starting a workshop for blind women, and a teacher has already been engaged and rooms taken. About a dozen boys from the school attended the workshop to be instructed in the trade they intended to work at.

London. The report of the Phoenix Home for Blind Women, 44, Alma Square, St. John's Wood, London, N.W. for the year ended September 29th last, has been published. A legacy of £5,565 16s. has been received and invested, but no decision has, as yet, been arrived at in regard to future development of the work. Inmates are admitted between the ages of 20 and 50 on payment of £20 a year. The Home is conducted as a private family.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION FOR THE BLIND OF LONDON.

The following is a copy of the report made to the London School Board on November 12th by the Blind and Deaf Scholarships and Apprenticing Committee, to which reference was made in the last January number, page 2:—

“The London County Council, on the 10th June 1903, addressed the following letter to the Clerk of the London School Board:—

“The Council has under consideration several requests which have been made to it in the direction of the establishment of Municipal Workshops for the Blind, and the Committee who have the matter before them have asked me to report on the matter. I have obtained a good deal of information on the subject from one source and another, and I see from a pamphlet by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, the Secretary to the Committee of Gardner’s Trust for the Blind, that the question has recently been before the School Board for London, who, it is stated, have decided to form a ‘London Blind and Deaf Children Scholarships and Apprenticing Committee.’ I should be greatly obliged if you would be so good as to send me copies of any reports which have been made on the subject by the School Board, and also any additional information on the general question which you feel in a position to supply. What I specially desire to obtain is evidence as to the need, if any, for the establishment of additional workshops for the Blind.”

To this letter the Clerk of the Board on the 11th June replied as follows:—

“The School Board for London have appointed a Committee for the after-care of the Blind and Deaf children. Your letter shall be laid before the Committee at their next meeting on the 24th June in order that they may know that your Council have the matter also before them.

I enclose a copy of the report to the School Board for

London, showing the constitution of the above mentioned Committee. You will see that the representative of your Council on this Committee is Mr. Wightman, who could raise the subject of your letter at the next meeting.

I regret that at present there is no additional information which can be sent to you, as the Committee have only had two sittings."

The Blind and Deaf Scholarships and Apprenticing Committee considered the above matter, and it was agreed to postpone the question until the first meeting after the recess.

The Committee having carefully considered the subject, agreed to report as follows to the Special Schools Subcommittee :—

In 1889 the total number of blind persons in England was stated to be 22,832, and the Royal Commission on the Blind, &c., then reported that a large proportion become blind between the ages of 45 and 65; that the average age of the blind was 49, and that the average age for the commencement of blindness was 31. Since then the number of blind persons in England has increased, as shown in 1901 census, to 25,317; but for over 40 years the proportion of blind to sighted persons in the entire population has been steadily diminishing, so that at the last census it had decreased to 1 in every 1,285 persons.

The population of London in 1901 was 4,536,541, and the number of blind of all ages was 3,556. The Schedules of the School Board for London in March last show 307 blind children between the ages of 5 and 16, but the census 1901 shows 386 between the ages of 5 and 15. With regard to the number of each age, the Board's statistics show the largest number between 12 and 13, but this can hardly be accepted as reliable, as the census returns give the largest number at 25. The reason the School Board Schedules show the largest number of Blind children at 13 may be accounted for mainly by the fact that some partially blind children who have been treated as blind up to that age are then allowed to leave school, if their sight has improved sufficiently for them to undertake work as sighted persons. With regard to the workshop accommodation provided for the

Blind, the following is a comparison between Birmingham, Liverpool, London, Nottingham, and Sheffield :—

Place and Population (1901 Census)	Number of Blind Persons		Number of Workshops.		Number of Persons Employed.		Percentage of Accommodation to number of Blind Persons.
Birmingham 522,204	502	...	1	...	63	...	13
Liverpool 684,958	979	...	1	...	135	...	14
London 4,536,541	3,556	...	6	...	228	...	6
Nottingham 239,743	273	...	1	...	33	...	12
Sheffield 380,793	350	...	1	...	39	...	11

From the above it is seen that the workshop accommodation for blind persons in London is far below that of the other places named. Probably in London a larger number of blind persons live in their own homes than is the case in the provinces, and therefore a smaller proportion of workshop accommodation for the Blind may be required. However this may be, no doubt further provision is required in London, both for those blind needing technical training on leaving school at the age of 16, and for those losing their sight at a later age.

Municipal workshops for the Blind in London would be a great advantage, but having regard to the large area it would be desirable that they should be placed in localities where the greatest number of the blind reside, and as the difficulty of blind persons travelling in London is considerable it would be desirable to provide two or three smaller workshops rather than one large one, so that they may be accessible to the largest number of persons. The workshop scheme should provide not only instruction for adults who lose their sight, and accommodation for workers who would earn their living by the employments carried on there, but also a system of supplying to those blind persons who prefer to work in their own homes such materials as they require, and selling for them the articles they make. Such a scheme would be useful for the adult blind, but the experience of the School Board for London shows that it is desirable to

provide further instruction for blind children after reaching 16, as it is seldom possible to fit them by that age to earn their own living.

It would hardly be desirable that boys and girls of 16 should be drafted into workshops with the adult blind, and it would probably come within the scope of the Technical Education Board's powers to provide instruction for blind boys and girls from 16 until fitted to earn their living. For this purpose a technical school should be provided, and a similar school is needed also for the Deaf. The technical schools for the Blind and Deaf might be provided on the same site, but the two classes should be kept entirely separate. The above suggestions would not interfere with the work of the institutions or workshops for the Blind now being carried on in London by voluntary agencies, as assuming that municipal workshop accommodation were provided for 150 blind persons the provisions made would still be below that of the other places already named. Having regard to the above facts the Scholarships and Apprenticing Committee submit the following recommendations to the School Board, hoping that they may see their way to forward them to the County Council:—

(1) That a technical school for the Blind and the Deaf between the ages of 16 and 21, be established in a central position in London to provide accommodation for about 50 Blind and 50 Deaf, the two departments being entirely separate.

[Although the numbers of the Deaf are double those of the Blind, as much accommodation would be required for the latter as for the former as they generally need a longer course of training. On the average, the time required to teach a blind boy a trade would be at least double that required for a deaf boy. About 25 blind boys and girls leave the Board's Schools each year on reaching 16, and in the case of the deaf about 60.]

(2) That three Municipal Workshops for the Blind be provided in different localities in the London district, and that these workshops assist the blind who work in their own homes by supplying them with material at cost price and selling their work.

The Special Schools Sub-Committee recommend that the statistics which have been obtained be forwarded to the London County Council, together with a statement that the Board think it very desirable that technical instruction for the Blind and Deaf between the ages of 16 and 21 should be established in London."

BRITISH BRAILLE COMMITTEE.

The Sixth Meeting of the above Committee was held on Saturday, October 24th, at the Bible House, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.; 17 members being present.

On further revision of line 4 it was decided that the signs *ed* and *er* shall not be used as word signs in Grade 2.

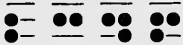
A suggestion was made that the signs at present used for the full stop should be used for the note of interrogation and that dot 6 should be used for the full stop. It was considered desirable to avoid making any change without considering the effect upon the whole scheme of punctuation marks, and it was therefore decided to consider the subject at the next meeting, and in the meantime to invite the members to submit complete proposals for the allocation of Braille signs to all the punctuation marks.

The following resolutions were also provisionally adopted:—

1. That contractions be employed as sequences of letters, but not so as to overlap the separate word of a compound word; in preparatory educational works syllabification should be adhered to.

2. That the lower signs may be used in succession but not exceeding three in number unless the whole sequence are punctuation signs.

3. That the letters *ea* when between two other letters shall be expressed by the sign 

4. That the combinations of letters *be, con, dis, to, be* represented by the signs  respectively, except at the end of words.

The seventh meeting of the above Committee was held on Saturday, November 21st, at the Bible House, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. ; 19 members being present.

The work of the previous meeting was carefully reconsidered, and the following resolutions were provisionally adopted :

1. That dot 6 be used for the interrogation sign.
2. That the comma, semi-colon, colon, full stop, exclamation mark, brackets, quotation marks, apostrophe, hyphen, dash, remain as heretofore.
3. That when three or more italicised words occur in sequence two italic dots shall be used before the first word and one before the last word only of the phrase.
4. That the present sign for *be, con, dis, be* be allocated to these sequences of letters, and that they be used only in the first or second, or first and second syllables of a word.
5. That the contractions for the words *to, his, in, was, by,* be used as at present.
6. That dots 36 when standing alone represent the word *even.*
7. That any number of lower signs be used in sequence.
8. That the contraction for *st* be dots 25, but be used without restriction.
9. That the contraction for *ing* be dots 256, wherever they occur.
10. That the contraction for *ble* be dots 2456, except at the beginning of a word.
11. That dot 56 be used for the sequence of letters *com* at the beginning of a word.

A sub-committee was appointed to codify the results up to the present time and to prepare a detailed scheme for Grade 2.

THE WORK OF THE SUNBEAM MISSION

Among Blind Children of the Poorer Classes.

INTRODUCTORY.—A special effort has lately been made by the Sunbeam Mission, the effect of which has been to awaken much sympathy and interest on behalf of these children, who through their blindness or defective sight are debarred from many enjoyments and occupations.

OBJECT.—It will be well to explain here, that the object of the Sunbeam Mission, which works under the sanction of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York, is to draw out the sympathy of upper and middle class children towards the poor, paralysed and suffering children in our large towns. Since the commencement of the work in 1891, 45,000 members and associates have joined the Mission. This number includes children in all classes of life. Members undertake to post a children's magazine once a month to the child whose name is supplied to them with card of membership. It is further suggested that some might also send letters, toys, garments, etc. The Mission is entirely self-supporting upon the small entrance fees, paid by members and associates in the upper and middle classes. Donations are never asked for; when sent they are invariably spent (without any deduction for office expenses) for the benefit of poor and suffering children on the lists of the Sunbeam Mission, many of whom are greatly in need of change of air, or extra food and clothing. The work is carried on by about 300 voluntary workers in various parts of the world, the Branches now numbering 75. The Hon. Treasurer and Secretaries (Central Office) are Admiral, Mrs. and Miss Mabel Battiscombe, of Eastwood, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset. Much has been done to brighten the lives of many thousands of children, while owing to the increased amount received from voluntary donations during the past year, a larger number than usual have been sent away to seaside and holiday homes, and have been otherwise helped in times of need.

DEVELOPMENT.—Until about eighteen months ago it was not found possible to enter the names of blind children among

those who receive the benefits of the Mission, owing to the fact that they were unable to read the printed magazines sent by the members. This led to the formation of a special Branch for the Blind, the success of which has far exceeded our most sanguine expectations. The necessity for obtaining the help of Braille writers immediately became apparent, for Braille is the window through which the Blind see God's work in nature, and the channel through which many of their joys reach them. Many of those who were anxious to help became interested enough to master the Braille system. It is important to emphasize the fact that uncontracted Braille is in great request, it is not difficult to learn, and can be enjoyed by the young as well as the elder blind children. We frequently hear that they learn by heart the hymns, poetry, etc., sent to them, and this at a time when the mind is most retentive, thus laying up precious store for after years.

RESULTS.—The result of the work among blind children can best be appreciated by quoting extracts from letters written by those who are brought into close daily contact with them. These are chiefly teachers in Schools and Institutions. Their affectionate interest in each individual child can hardly be estimated, and their co-operation and suggestions have proved most valuable in carrying out the "Sunbeam" work. These letters come from various parts of England and Scotland, and reveal in a typical manner the brightness produced wherever "Sunbeams" penetrate.

EXTRACTS.—"The Braille letters are a delightful idea. All children love letters, and more especially letters they can read themselves. Blind children so often have to hear their letters read to them, and the welcome that awaits a Braille letter would compensate anyone for the trouble that their writing involves. Those little blind children, shut out as they are from so much that makes life beautiful to us, are very apt to live in a little world of their own, and the friendship and sympathy of their "Sunbeam" means very much to them. Their lives are not only brightened, but their outlook becomes wider and more hopeful, and the knowledge that at least one person in the outer world is

interested in them, must help them continually in their courageous effort to fill their places in the world to the best of their ability. We all bless the Sunbeam Mission, and all the Schools that do not have "Sunbeams" hope that the day is soon coming when they will shine on them too."

"I have tried to convey to you how much real pleasure it has brought into the lives of my own scholars, and how the beginning of each month is talked of beforehand, as they will be sure to get their magazines or Braille letters. May I tell you that the names of the "Sunbeams" are spoken of and looked upon as those whom the children really know, and when the postman delivers these expected letters, he or she is a proud boy or girl who brings them in, and places them on my desk. I think the Blind Branch acts as a stimulus to the children who can write and read, as well as to those who cannot, as they know they will soon be rewarded when they try to learn. They exchange manuscripts, which I think encourages them to think of others, and circulates the books, putting the children in a better position for discussing them."

"The 'Sunbeam' work is going on so quietly and happily. About half of our children now belong. Many of the letters are most interesting, and instructive too. Some of the children prize them so much that they are making a book of all the letters they receive. C— has had quite nice accounts of scenes in Switzerland; he was so intensely interested that he wanted to make a comment on every little detail in his replies, and can generally repeat the contents of his letters almost word for word. He was highly excited when his friend told him she had a pet, (describing a guinea-pig fully) and that she would like him to guess what animal it was. He came to the conclusion that it must be a rabbit, and his patience would scarcely last out the month for a reply. It occurred to me that it was a very good way to arouse his interest. Letters and stories are much appreciated, as some of the children do not know what to do with themselves at home, and so the stories are lent round."

"During the last eighteen months I have had the privilege of being associated with the 'Sunbeam Mission,' and as I am

brought into contact with a large number of blind children, I have had ample opportunity of witnessing the unbounded pleasure they derive from their 'Sunbeam' friends. Time and space will not admit of my saying much about any individual child, but one or two instances may suffice to show the happiness which is felt by the children on receiving an unexpected parcel from their thoughtful, kind-hearted 'Sunbeam.' It was with keen interest and a little amusement that I helped a child last year to undo her Christmas parcel. She first found a hat which she thought would do nicely for Sundays, then a pair of boots, which she said would fit her auntie, then a fur, which she said was 'far too long for her, and would make two, one of which would do for her cousin.' The child was getting more and more excited, especially as she saw that she could share her happiness with others, and when she came to a large box of sweets, she was brimming over with pleasure, but there was a still greater treat in store for her. The last thing of all was a Christmas pudding, which formed the crowning point of her joy, and her gratitude found expression in the few words, 'Oh, Miss, isn't my Sunbeam kind'? This summer many of our children were able to go into the country for a fortnight owing to the kindness of their 'Sunbeams,' who supplied the money for their holiday, and in many cases provided the children with clothes in which to go away. Many of the poorest were, therefore, able to get the benefit of the fresh air and change of diet, and came back to school with new life and energy, full of gratitude to their unseen benefactors. It is with the greatest interest that the children look forward to receiving the letters in which their 'Sunbeams' relate their travels, or pleasing incidents of their home life. One little boy speaks of his 'Sunbeam' and her little brother as if he knew them both personally, although he has seen neither; they play quite an important part in his life. The magazines and stories which are sent to the children are stored up with great care, and many of them have quite a nice little library. It is a little difficult to choose suitable presents for blind children, but in every case the 'Sunbeams' are very thoughtful, and always think of gifts which can be fully appreciated without the sense

of sight. Many send scented soap, flowers, scent, etc., and other pleasing gifts of that kind; while handkerchiefs, articles of clothing, and eatables are always most acceptable. Gifts of wool are highly valued by the girls, as they are able to make simple articles for themselves, and thus occupy their time. If our kind friends could view, unobserved, the joy and excitement shown by the children (caused by their thoughtfulness and love for the little ones) they would certainly feel quite convinced that their efforts are not in vain, and they would be thankful that they are able to be the means of adding rays of sunshine to the lives of those who are not so well supplied with the blessings of this life as they themselves are, and they would, therefore, receive great encouragement, and be desirous of continuing the work with fervent zeal and earnestness."

"I am so glad to have an opportunity of stating how much real pleasure the Sunbeam Mission brings to the poor children of our schools. I think no one but those who meet the children every day can realize to the full the amount of happiness it brings into their lives. When I have a parcel or letter for someone, it is delightful to hear the 'Thank you, Miss,' and feel it is really sincere."

"The 'Sunbeam Mission' is a source of untold pleasure in my centre of Blind children, and not a day passes but the eager little folks say, 'Are there any Sunbeams to-day?'. When K—lost her mother, her Sunbeam's practical sympathy was most touching, she also sent flowers, and a letter most suitable to a little girl. B—'s Sunbeam has sent him the whole gospel of St. Matthew in Braille, and many stories suitable for a lively boy. P— receives single chapters of 'Little Arthur's History of England' and is keeping them carefully to bind into small volumes."

"I take the Sunbeam Mission to be one of the noblest existing movements for the good of the children. One can scarcely understand how much it is appreciated by my little ones. It has been a great help also to me in my work, and the children are more regular in their attendance at school."

"The children ask me to send their warm thanks for the

kind presents safely received. I wish you could have seen their beaming faces, a parcel by post being such an unknown thing. All these kind thoughts bring real Sunbeams of gladness to our little ones."

A blind Associate writes:—"I should like to tell you how much we, who feel so with blind children, thank you for this movement. No one can so well understand the loneliness of a blind child, as some of us who have gone through it, even with good homes and comforts, and what must the very poor feel?"

HELP NEEDED.—MORE MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.—Those who join the Sunbeam Mission as Members (under the age of 17) or Associates, (over the age of 17) undertake to send a magazine or Braille paper every month to a blind child whose name is supplied to them on application to the Hon. Secretary. It is also suggested that letters, or small suitable gifts, should be sent in addition. The entrance fee for Members is 6d., and for Associates 1/-. There is no annual subscription. Further information can be obtained by applying to the Hon. Secretary, Miss Beatrice Taylor, 39, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, London, S.E., enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Any voluntary help is welcome from those who may be unable to befriend a special child, such helpers can join as unattached Associates by payment of entrance fee, 1/-, and can assist in various ways, such as:—interesting others in the work, copying short articles in Braille, or sending scented flowers, toys, etc., to the children, many of whom are still waiting for a "Sunbeam" friend of their own.

BEATRICE TAYLOR.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 26.

APRIL 20TH, 1904.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 25th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

We have much pleasure in giving in this number an article kindly written specially for us by Dr. Fletcher Little on Massage by the Blind. The question whether this kind of employment is suitable for the Blind is so often discussed that it is well to hear what Dr. Little has to say on the matter, as he has successfully trained very many blind persons of both sexes.

In Brussels a committee of medical men and others was recently formed to examine six blind men who had been trained as masseurs, and the committee unanimously granted to each a certificate of fitness, remarking that they were much struck by the skilful manipulation of the operators.

The danger in this employment, as in others, is that more blind persons may be trained than can possibly obtain work, especially when we remember that there is the incorporated society of trained masseuses, which grants certificates to a large number of sighted women every year.

The sub-committee have issued their report to the members of the British Braille Committee. It is now under consideration by the General Committee, and apparently, judging from the account of the meeting held on March 26th (v. page 142), the report will be considerably amended, before it is adopted.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. It is with much regret that we have to record the death of Lady Sotheby on January 16th, to whom we referred in our last number, paragraph 17. A memorial service was held on January 21st at St. Mary's, Bryanston Square, and was attended by blind workpeople representing the various trades carried on at the workshops for the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, W. Lady Sotheby was a member of the Committee of the workshops, and one of the most regular attendants at the meetings. It was at the "at home" on December 14th that she shewed us the portrait of her late husband and told us that she was devoting much of her time on behalf of the Blind, because nearly the last words of her husband, who was chairman of the Committee for many years, were "Look after my blind friends."

2. We regret to have to report the death of Mr. Albert Jones on February 12th at the early age of 21 years. Mr. Jones was quite blind, and was being trained for the Christian Ministry at Pontypridd Academy, where he gave promise by his earnestness, by his fluency of speech, and by his deep devotion to his studies, of being a most excellent Minister. He intended, later on, to enter the Baptist College at Cardiff.

3. We have received the following information about three old Scholars of Worcester Blind College. The Rev. R. C. Swayne, having resigned the curacy of Swanley, has been put in sole charge of the parish of Filgrave in Bucks. The Rev. J. P. Lear has been appointed to the Baptist Church in Leamington as its pastor. Mr. J. F. Warden, of Keble College, Oxford, has been given a prize by his college of £7 10s. in books, as a testimonial for work done.

4. Mr. C. G. Hardebeck, organist of St. Peter's Church, Belfast, and formerly student of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, has obtained two more prizes at the Feis Ceoil, or national musical festival in Ireland. The one for an arrange-

ment of an Irish air as a song, the other for an anthem for organ, solo and chorus. Since the establishment of the Feis Ceoil in 1897, Mr. Hardebeck has received twelve prizes for his compositions.

5. The place of honour in the January number of the *Musical Times* has been given to "O worship the King," an anthem by Mr. Alfred Hollins. The same number contains a glowing panegyric of Mr. Wolstenholme's concert, which took place on December 7th.

6. Mr. H. C. Warrilow, formerly a pupil at the Royal Normal College, and afterwards organist of the parish Church of Dartford, has been appointed organist of St. Barnabas Church, Oxford. It is rare that a blind man is given so difficult a post, where a choral celebration of Holy Communion takes place every Sunday, and there is Gregorian chanting. One of the competitors for the appointment was a doctor of music.

7. Mr. W. H. Hockaday who has been superintendent for forty years of the Institution for the Blind, North Hill, Plymouth, retired last month. Mrs. Hockaday was matron of the Institution. We cordially wish both of them a quiet restful time after such a long period of devoted work on behalf of the Blind. Mr. and Mrs. F. Stanton Smith have been appointed superintendent and matron respectively, and took up their duties on March 25th.

8. Mrs. Gray has written us to say that she has decided to close her Braille music library, to which reference was made in No. 24, paragraph 27, because most of the borrowers pay no attention to the rules. Mrs. Gray says that she went herself to Shortlands to receive the music on January 1st and 2nd, but "for the second time only one-sixth of the music came back in time," and the rest arriving at odd intervals, naturally caused much inconvenience in her father's house, when there was no one there to receive and put away the parcels. "It has taken four weeks to get the music in, after it was due, and some parcels

have been asked for three or four times, people thinking that "forgetting" or "wanting the music longer," was a sufficient excuse." Much as we regret that such a useful library, placed at the service of the Blind, should be closed, we cannot see that Mrs. Gray had any other alternative when the beneficiaries would not conform to the few simple but necessary rules drawn up by her.

9. The report of Gardner's Trust for the Blind for the year 1903, appeared in the *Times*, *Standard*, and *Daily Telegraph*, of January 9th, and has been printed as a booklet with a list of the names and addresses of all the pensioners. Reference is made to the report, issued last year, by the Committee appointed at the Conference in April, 1902, to advise on the best way of dealing with "defective" blind children, and attention is also drawn to "the British Braille Committee," and to the recommendations made to the Special Schools Sub-Committee of the London School Board, by the Committee appointed by the Board for the after-care of Blind and Deaf Children. The following disbursements were sanctioned during the year:—(1) £4,089 towards the board and tuition of 109 scholars at various colleges and institutions, including two scholarships at Oxford and one at Cambridge University. (2) £2,860 to 225 pensioners. There are 27 pensioners at £20, 68 at £15, and 130 at £10 a year. (3) £2,053 10s. to 30 institutions and societies, for the expense of the buildings, general purposes, &c. (4) £876 towards the fees for instruction of 72 pupils above the age of 16, at various schools and workshops. (5) £379 to 56 individuals for assistance in starting, or carrying on, their trades as piano-forte tuners, basket makers, mat makers, chair caners. &c.

10. The charge for pupils at the Institution for the Blind at Exeter was raised from £21 to £24 a year on March 25th in consequence of the increased and increasing cost of the maintenance and education of pupils, and on May 1st the fees at the Bristol Blind Asylum are to be raised to £23 5s. and £3 a year for clothing.

11. A concert was given every evening during the week begining March 14th at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, preceded by a gymnastic display at 6.30 p.m. On two evenings Mr. Priest's cantata "The Centurion's Servant" was given with great effect, and the composer received quite an ovation, and hearty congratulations. The sales during the week amounted to £157, and 2,300 visitors attended the concerts, which were most successful.

12. The Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, was open for public inspection on March 23rd and 24th, when there was a special exhibition and sale of Swedish hand-loom weaving and hand-made knitting and crocheting. At intervals there was music by the choir, and also a gymnastic display.

13. On Thursday March 3rd Lady Barbara Yeatman Biggs presented, on behalf of the Society for the Promotion of Kindness to Animals, thirteen medals to the pupils of the Royal Normal College for the Blind for the best essays on kindness to animals.

14. The Committee of the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind, 114, Belsize Road, N.W., have secured new and excellent premises in Queen's Road, Bayswater, and it is hoped that the necessary alterations will be completed so as to enable the move to be made in June. H.R.H. Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) has graciously consented to become President of the Library.

15. A new branch in the mat trade has recently been introduced in the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, viz., the manufacture of covers, of which we have seen a sample, for protecting plants from frost. The coir mat is more expensive than the common Archangel mats, but it has these great advantages: (a) That it is unaffected by the weather, wet or otherwise and (b) That it is open in the mesh, thus allowing light and air to penetrate, yet being stout and warm, and effectually keeping out all severe frost. It is simply plain weaving of a very easy

kind, and requires no skilled sighted supervision. The coal bag trade has also developed considerably at the same institution, the bags being woven on the loom.

16. A dinner is to be held at the Hotel Cecil on April 21st, at which the Right Hon. Lord Howard de Walden will preside, in order to try to raise sufficient funds to pay off the debt on the Royal Normal College for the Blind.

17. The Committee of the School for the Indigent Blind, Leatherhead, have built and opened a large and commodious workshop for the Blind, and depôt at 246, 248 and 250 Waterloo Road, London, S.E. The temporary factory at 117 and 119, Oakley Street, Southwark, S.E., has been vacated.

18. The Institute for Massage by the Blind was opened on January 1st, at 64, Lancaster Gate, Hyde Park, W., where massage and Nauheim exercises are given from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. by blind certificated masseuses to women and children under medical direction only. The terms are 7/6 an hour or 5/- half an hour. Operators of both sexes will also attend patients at their own homes, according to arrangement. The Hon. Sec. is Mrs. MacNicol, at the Institute.

19. The Oxford Society for the Blind, whose work has hitherto been confined to the city, has decided to extend its operations into the county, where more than 120 blind people are known to the Society. Much sympathy is being extended to the new venture, and the Rev. R. W. Corbet has been appointed Hon. Secretary.

20. A very successful concert by the Blind in Bradford was held on March 21st, and the net proceeds amounted to over £46, which has been handed over to the new Building Fund of the Institution for the Blind, towards wiping off the deficit of about £400. It is pleasing to see the Blind taking such practical interest in the Institution which does so much for

their welfare, and we feel sure that the Committee must feel highly gratified by the good feeling which must have prompted this spontaneous and helpful co-operation.

21. We have received with the author's compliments, a copy of "First Steps in Chess" by Mr. F. Merrick, printed in Braille (interpointed) by the British and Foreign Blind Association. It consists of 16 sheets, and gives useful explanations and hints to those blind persons who wish to become chess players.

22. The following books have been recently added to the Free Library, Oxford:—Augustine, "De Gestis Pelagii," "De Spiritu," and "De Natura"; Beard, "The Reformation"; Kidd, "Explanation of the Articles"; Myers, "St. Paul"; Ramsay, "Paul the Traveller"; Westcott, "Introduction to the Fourth Gospel"; St. Matthew, St. Mark, and the Acts, all in Greek; Notes on the Acts; Cardwell, "Documents of the Church"; First two books of Virgil's "Aeneid"; First three books of Aristotle's "Ethics; Notes on same; Hawker Hughes, Notes on Political Economy; J. R. Wallace, "On Darwinism"; Watson, "Philosophy of Kant"; Dryden, "Preface to Fables"; Johnson, "Preface to Skakespeare"; and Wordsworth, "Preface to the Lyrical Ballads." Many thanks are due to the Librarian, who has kindly had several copies of the Braille part of the catalogue printed in ordinary type, and to the lady writers, one of whom has written out eighty volumes.

23. The following books have lately been printed in Moon's type:—

	s.	d
Barriers Burned Away, in 6 vols.	each	3 6
The Sky Pilot, by Ralph Connor, 2 vols.	each	3 6
Whittier's Poems selections, 1 vol.		2 6
Ivanhoe, vol. 1		3 6
The Pilgrim's Progress in Tamil, 4 vols.	each	3 6
The Acts in Tamil, 2 vols.	each	3 6
William McKinley, by Senator Hay, 1 vol.		2 6

24. We were favoured by a kind invitation from the Hoxton Schools Society to the annual treat to the children at the Schools for the Blind under the London School Board, and a most enjoyable and fascinating sight it was to see how supremely happy the children were. The treat took place at the Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, on Friday, January 22nd, from 3 to 5 p.m., and consisted of songs, recitations, violin solos, tea and distribution of presents from the Society. Each child also received a parcel from the Sunbeam Mission containing a tablet of scented soap, a handkerchief with a fancy border, and the following lines transcribed in Braille, which appeared in *Great Thoughts*, December 12th, 1903, and were written by Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox:—

WISHING.

Do you wish the world were better? Let me tell you what to do.
Set a watch upon your actions, keep them always straight and true;

Rid your mind of selfish motives, let your thoughts be clean and high,
You can make a little Eden of the sphere you occupy.

Do you wish the world were wiser? Well, suppose you make a start,

By accumulating wisdom in the scrap-book of your heart.

Do not waste one page on folly; live to learn and learn to live.

If you want to give men knowledge, you must get it ere you give.

Do you wish the world were happy? Then remember day by day
Just to scatter seeds of kindness as you pass along the way;

For the pleasure of the many may be oftentimes traced to one,

As the hand that plants the acorn shelters armies from the sun.

The children, who numbered about 250, between the ages of six and sixteen, were drawn from the thirteen centres, and two residential schools under the Board. They arrived and departed in large brakes, and the arrangements were most complete and satisfactory, so that there was nothing to mar the two hours' supreme enjoyment evidenced by repeated laughter and clapping of hands by the children. The tea was kindly provided by the *Westminster Gazette*, and was much appreciated. The entertainment closed with singing "God Save the King," as it was the

anniversary of the King's accession, and with three hearty cheers for Miss Rose F. Petty, Hon. Secretary of the Society, to whose energy and forethought was mainly due the unqualified success of the gathering. Amongst the guests present were the Hon. Maude Lawrence (Chairman of the Special Schools Subcommittee, L.S.B.); Sir Charles Elliott, K.C.B.; Dr. Eichholz, Miss Beatrice Taylor, of the Sunbeam Mission, &c., &c.

25. A Quarterly Paper of information and intercession on behalf of the missionary work of the Church, which has a circulation of more than 45,000 copies, is now being issued in Braille type, and can be obtained from Miss D. Blyth, 101, Shepherd's Bush Road, Hammersmith, London, W. The cost price is 3/- a year for the four quarterly issues post free. It can be supplied at reduced price, or gratis, to those unable to afford the full price.

26. A new society was formed last November to help the Blind in Colne, Lancashire. The Hon. Secretary is Mrs. Burnett, Heir's House, Colne.

27. The cantata "The Centurion's Servant," by Mr. F. W. Priest, A.R.C.O., to which reference was made in the last number, paragraph 6, is now published, price 8d., and can be obtained from the Secretary of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, to the Chairman and Committee of which Institution the work is dedicated. We strongly recommend lovers of music to obtain copies without delay. The following appeared in *The Birmingham Daily Post*, by its musical critic, on March 12th.:—"Mr. Priest is a pupil of Mr. A. R. Gaul, who has edited the cantata, and written a kindly and sympathetic preface. The cantata has for subject the healing of the 'Centurion's Servant,' and is written for baritone and tenor soli, chorus and organ. The baritone takes the part of the Evangelist, and the Centurion is represented by the tenor soloist. The work is well written, and reveals the trained musician. The Evangelist's part is in recitative, very melodious in style. There are two solos for

tenor, 'Lord, I am not worthy,' and 'For Thy mercy is from everlasting,' the latter combined with a chorus. These are tasteful, and the chorus flowing and somewhat Mendelssohnian. Scott's version of the 'Dies Iræ' is set for baritone, and this is one of the strongest numbers. There are hymns, presumably for the congregation to join in, and some choral numbers: the last, 'O give thanks unto the Lord,' though in plain counterpoint, displaying skill. A fugal exposition near the close adds to its effect. The music is natural and unaffected, and the composition should meet with a sympathetic reception."

28. Mr. F. J. Munby, Hon. Secretary of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, invited to the annual meeting held on March 30th, at which the Earl of Feversham presided, many of the chairmen and members of the Education Committees in the county. This seems an excellent plan in order that the new education authorities may fully realize that the education of the Blind is an important part of their duty. It would be well if Mr. Munby's example were copied on similar occasions. Lord Herries (Chairman of the East Riding Education Committee), spoke and said he thought that representatives of the County Councils should visit the Institution and do what they could to assist in its work.

29. We are pleased to be able to state that several of the new Education authorities have decided to assist the Blind, on attaining the age of 16 years, and that the Board of Education have approved in several cases of the Education Committees contributing towards the maintenance of children sent to schools for the Blind under Part II of the Education Act, 1902. We hear that the following Education Committees have already resolved to assist such cases:—Bradford, Clayton (Bradford), Elland and Greetland, Montgomeryshire County Council, Norwich, Oxford City Council, Scarborough, Smethwick, Southwick, Staffordshire County Council, Warwickshire County Council, Worcestershire County Council, and City of York Education Committee. We earnestly hope that all the Education Authorities

will soon adopt Part II. of the Act in regard to the education of the Blind, but it is necessary that the authorities of the various Institutions for the Blind should apply for such assistance and press the question.

30. In regard to much that has recently appeared in the newspapers about giving sight to the Blind, we quote the following, which appeared in the *Illustrated London News*, of March 5th, and is written by Dr. Andrew Wilson, than whom there is no one better qualified to speak on this subject:—"An American journal, with all the enterprise—often far ahead of scientific probabilities in its trend—characteristic of the nation, recently devoted a good deal of space to the discussion of the question of radium rays being utilised for the purpose of giving sight to the Blind. I need not say that blindness is a condition dependent upon many different conditions, and the view that all cases of this affliction should be equally amenable to one agent—even supposing cure possible—is, of course, utterly untenable. Certain interesting results, however, have accrued from experimentation with radium on the Blind. It appears that a sensation as of light is experienced when radium is brought near to the blind eyes. This is the case with the totally blind, but where blind people possess the ability to distinguish between darkness and light without the power of defining the shape of anything, it would seem that in the dark they can make out the forms of objects on a screen which radium rays light up. All these results are interesting, because if they leave much to be investigated, they also give great promise for the future. The application of such emanations to diseased tissues constitutes a topic of intense practical interest to the race. Light, one of our blessings, may in another phase prove to be a powerful means of fighting the scourges that beset us."

31. The British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, is about to equip the workshops with more modern machinery and plant, and to extend the Association's work, at an estimated cost of £1,900.

32. It is hoped that the first stone will be shortly laid in connection with the new Home for the Blind at Southport, to which we referred in paragraph No. 15 of No. 24 of *The Blind*. The Home is being erected in connection with the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society and the foundations are already well forward.

33. The annual report of the Special Schools Sub-Committee of the School Board for London for the year ended March 20th, 1903, was presented to the School Management Committee on the 11th December last, and is now printed with plates and appendices, price 1/6. The photographs of some of the work in the special schools are particularly good, and the report is exhaustive and complete with full information on the various points of interest. It appears that the cost of the schools for the Blind during the year, amounted to £6,200, and that the grant was £984. The net cost per head works out at £25 8s. 10½d. In 1874 day classes were opened for blind children, and were carried on for sixteen years without Government grant, and in 1890 the School Board obtained as a concession the recognition of the classes for purposes of grant. And this arrangement lasted until January 1st, 1894, when the Act of 1893 came into operation. In 1893 there were 26 centres or schools for the Blind with an average attendance of 7, and in 1903 there were 10 schools with accommodation for 271, and an average attendance of 205. Seven more schools are about to be opened with accommodation for 214, but as the temporary accommodation for 136 will be closed, the increase in this respect will be only 78. "In order to bring the larger numbers together, it became necessary to remove children from their homes if they resided in districts remote from the schools, and the Board met this difficulty either by contributing to the expenses of the children's education and maintenance in Voluntary Residential Schools, or by placing them under the care of Boarding-out Committees to be lodged with foster-parents. These methods met the need for the time, but for various reasons had their limitations, and were not to be

considered satisfactory solutions." In 1894 27 were sent to Voluntary Institutions, in 1897 87, in 1900 47, and in 1903 only 13, as 41 were in the Board's own residential schools. In 1900 23 were lodged with foster parents and in 1903 17. Two residential schools were provided and opened in 1902, one for 20 girls between the ages of 12 and 16 at Elm Court, Court Road, West Norwood, and the other for 30 boys of the same age, at Linden Lodge, Wandsworth Common. In these schools special attention is being paid to industrial and manual work, the girls attending the cookery and laundry centres, and the boys the woodwork centres, and premises are about to be acquired for a residential school for 16 children who are mentally defective, blind or blind and deaf. In 1901 the Board decided to appoint a sighted teacher in each school, and agreed that the younger children should be taught entirely in the Blind Schools. We must conclude these remarks by quoting from the report the following important words, which we feel sure will be heartily endorsed by all those interested in the education of the Blind :—

" The most important question which faces the Sub-Committee is that of 'after-care.' It may be argued that this is not within their province and that they need have no thought beyond the limits of the legal school age. I submit that to agree to that argument would be to set up a low standard of the Sub-Committee's sphere of work, and would be not only a wasteful and extravagant, but a short-sighted policy. Undoubtedly it is not the duty of the School Board for London, or any other educational authority, to make provision for children beyond the legal school age, but I believe it is their duty to point out that while all that is possible is done for these unfortunate children before they reach 16, it is of national importance that all the training and discipline given during that time should not be lost through want of 'after-care.'" The report is signed by the Hon. Maude A. Lawrence,"chairman.

34. At the request of the Education Committee of the Royal Commission for the St. Louis Exhibition the editor prepared a large map of the British Isles, shewing all the places

where there are Institutions and Societies for the Blind, and he also set forth statistics as to the number of blind persons, schools, workshops, societies, &c.

35. The following poem was written by the Rev. T. Watson, a Baptist Minister in Quebec, Canada, after reading, in a "Budget," published by Mr. Hamilton, of "The White House," Portrush, a description of some work made by the Blind in the workshops for the Blind, Royal Avenue, Belfast:—

All-seeing Lord of life and light,
 To Whom we turn when in Earth's night
 Our path we fail to find,
 To Thee our earnest hearts appeal
 That Thou would'st Thy great love reveal
 This day unto the Blind.

In earth and sky, and flower and tree,
 The countless beauties which we see,
 Bring gladness to the mind,
 But while our songs of praise are heard,
 Our deepest sympathies are stirred,
 For thousands who are blind.

Though darkness all their days must fill,
 They bow submissive to Thy will,
 They know that Thou art kind ;
 Made conscious of Thy guardian care,
 We breathe to Thee the earnest prayer
 For blessings on the Blind.

Through Him Who died upon the Cross,
 Reveal that gain which sweetens loss,
 And leaves all grief behind ;
 With all the comfort of Thy love,
 And visions of the home above,
 Sustain and cheer the Blind.

36. We have received a copy of the report of the circulating library for the Blind in Rome for the year 1903. Seven

Institutions made use of the library and 29 blind persons, of whom 19 reside in Rome and 10 outside. The Hon. Secretary is Miss Dora E. Bulwer, 72, Via Palestro, Rome, who has worked most earnestly in this cause and is to be much congratulated on such a successful result of her efforts. The library is at 21, Via Sallustiana, and is open every Thursday from 2 to 5 p.m. The necessary rules as to the loan of books are printed in the report.

37. A commission to investigate the condition of the adult Blind in the State of New York, has recently been sitting, and concluded its proceedings on February 1st. The president was Dr. F. Park Lewis. We were requested to send copies of the report of the Conference held in April 1902, of *The Blind* and other papers. We look forward to seeing a copy of the report when published.

38. The boys of the Perkins Institute for the Blind, Boston, U.S.A., gave a performance of "As You Like It," in Elizabethan style, in February last. From the accounts in the newspapers, kindly sent us, it appears that the representation was exceedingly good; the character of Touchstone being especially well rendered.

39. We have to acknowledge with thanks safe receipt of (a) the 8th annual report of the Association for the Advancement of the Blind, from Melbourne, to which Miss Aston is Hon. Secretary. Two privileges have been secured through the instrumentality of the Association, viz.: free postage of Braille and Moon's articles, and permission to take a guide, when travelling by rail in Victoria, on one ticket; (b) a pamphlet in Danish, by Mr. Moldenhawer, on the work carried on at the Royal Institution for the Blind, Copenhagen; (c) a copy of the report of the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society, and Free Circulating Library for the Blind, which has been in existence 21 years. The report contains a good portrait of the late Dr. Moon, and also of Miss Moon, and several instances of blind persons of about 70 years of age easily and quickly learning

Moon's type. There are two blind teachers. The secretary is Dr. Robert C. Moon, son of the inventor of Moon's type. There is a large room specially set apart as a reading room for the Blind in the Free Library of Philadelphia, where the Society's books are kept, and lent out; (d) a paper on "Our Duties to the Blind," by Miss Helen Keller, which was presented at the first annual meeting of the Massachusetts Association for Promoting the Interests of the Adult Blind, January 5th, 1904, Perkins Hall, Boston. The thoughtful contents of this paper are most remarkable, knowing as we do, that the writer is not only blind, but also deaf and dumb.

40. The unveiling of a statue of the brothers Haüy, in their native town of Saint Just-en-Chaussée, took place on November 11th. The statue has cost £680, and is the work of Étienne Leroux, carver of a statue of Louis Braille. Valentin Haüy is represented seated, teaching a blind child to read the raised characters. The Abbé René Haüy is standing, and is examining a crystal, which he holds in his hand.

41. The country home for blind people, at Llandeud, Cærlon, Monmouthshire, provides a most useful and cheering country change of air for the Blind of all ages. It is a place where those who lose their sight in adult years, can receive instruction and sympathetic encouragement to learn Braille, reading and writing, type-writing, music, and many other things adapted to the comfort and occupation of the Blind. A blind clergyman resides in the home and devotes himself to the welfare of the visitors. Other educated blind friends come to cheer and encourage the Blind, who lose their sight in adult years, and much need sympathy.

42. Mr. John J. Plater, an old pupil of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, has been elected a member of the Yardley District Council for the fourth time. Mr. Plater has been at various times Vice-Chairman of the District Council and Board of Guardians, and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of both authorities, besides serving on several other Committees.

INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES.

Accrington. The 29th annual report and balance sheet of the Fund for the Blind and Prevention of Blindness at Accrington, &c., has been issued. There is a home teacher and a free library. Much general help is given to the Blind and special efforts are made for prevention of blindness. There are 75 blind persons on the register. The department for prevention of blindness has assisted 118 cases, and the trustees of the late Alderman Whittaker gave £100 to carry on this most necessary work. Mr. James Townson, the energetic and overworked Hon. Secretary, is to be heartily congratulated on the success of his efforts not only on behalf of the Blind, but to prevent blindness.

Bangor. The 21st annual meeting of the North Wales (Bangor) Home Teaching Society for the Blind, was held at Portmadoc on November 4th, when the report for the year ended July 1st, 1903 was adopted. There are three teachers employed who paid 860 visits, and there are 238 blind people on the books. There are 1262 volumes in the Library, of which 695 are in Welsh, including the Book of Isaiah in Moon's type. A special effort is being made to extend the Sick and Industrial branch.

Bristol. (a) The annual meeting of the Association for Home Teaching and industrial employment of the Blind, 65a. Park Street, Bristol, was held on March 3rd, when the 45th annual report for 1903 was presented. This society provides three blind teachers who visit the Blind. Women and girls are taught knitting and chair-caning, and the articles made by them are sold in a retail shop. The sales amounted to £486, and £256 were paid in wages to the Blind.

(b) The 30th annual report for the year 1903 of the Home for blind women, 9, Aberdeen Road, Clifton, Bristol, has been issued. The home has accommodation for 12 blind women. The work done by them realized £23. The net proceeds of a bazaar and concert were £72.

Hull. The 40th annual meeting of the Hull Blind Institution was held on March 23rd, when the report for the year 1903 was adopted. There is a Home Teaching branch and 1,879 visits were made. Sixteen women have been employed in chair-caning. There are 10 inmates in the Rockcliffe Home for blind women, who spent a month at the seaside in the summer. There are 21 men in the workshop, and the sales amounted to £1,470. There was a legacy of £200. The Sick Benefit and Entertainment branch provided funds for summer outings, Christmas festivities, sick relief, &c. &c.

London. (a) The annual meeting of the Home Teaching Society for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., was held on March 1st, at the residence of Lord Midleton, who presided. The adoption of the 48th annual report for the year 1903 was moved by the Bishop of St. Albans, seconded by Canon Fleming, and carried. The net proceeds of the festival dinner amounted to £674. There is a staff of 14 blind teachers, who had 1861 cases on their registers, paid 35,425 visits and lent 32,399 books.

(b) The 60th report of the National Blind Relief Society, 27, Tite Street, Chelsea, S.W., for the year ended April 30th, 1903, together with an account of the annual meeting held at Grosvenor House on the 11th of June last, has been recently published. This Society grants pensions of 5s., 10s., 15s. and £1 a month to those whose incomes do not exceed £20 per annum, if single, or £30, if married. There were 725 pensioners, of whom 66 had their pensions augmented last year. The subscriptions and donations including a special appeal amounted to £5694.

(c) The report for 1903 of the Class for the Blind, held at 188, Ebury Street, S.W., every Tuesday afternoon except in August and September, has been issued. It shows that there are 70 members who meet together for an hour in Bible Reading, and an hour in instruction in reading and writing Braille every week. The cost of the class, including the weekly teas, is £112.

Manchester. (a) The 64th annual meeting of Henshaw's Blind Asylum was held on February 17th, and the report for 1903 was adopted. At the close of the year there were 191 inmates (112 males and 79 females) including 86 children. In the outside workshops 39 blind men and 9 women have been continuously employed at a loss of £355. The sales amounted to £5393. A sum of £1196 was granted to ex-pupils and outside Blind. The old laundry has been enlarged and a new larder has been built at a cost of over £2,000. The entire laundry work can now be done on the premises.

(b) The annual meeting of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society was held on February 11th, at the Town Hall, Manchester when a very satisfactory report for the year ended December 31st, 1903, was adopted. Great activity has been shown in the Braille industry, and 37 blind workers have been engaged in this branch, to whom £274 have been paid in wages. There are in the Library 912 volumes of which 244 were added during the year, and there are 200 volumes ready to be bound. The trustees of the late Mr. Godfrey Ermen have promised £5,000 to the Society for the purpose of buying a freehold site, and building a seaside home for the Blind. A site has been selected at Southport, and when the building is ready, the St. Anne's Home will be given up. Five men have been employed in the brush workshop and the sales amounted to £816. A blind collector has been appointed to appeal for and receive subscriptions.

Oldham. The 20th annual meeting of the Workshops for the Blind, Oldham, was held in the Mayor's Parlour on January 28th, when Dr. T. Platt, J.P. presided, and the report for the year ended December 31st, 1903 was adopted. The trade account shows a loss of £44. There are at present employed, 17 journeymen and 5 learners. The sales amounted to £2,297. The legacies amounted to £543. £21 have been distributed to the poor Blind from the William Bodden Memorial Fund. An evening class for the Blind was started on September 23rd with six pupils.

Reading. The 11th annual report of the Reading Blind Aid Society for the year ended January 31st last has been issued, and shows how carefully every blind person in that town is looked after. Fifty adults have shared the benefits dispensed, and one lad has been provided with a workshop, tools and materials to enable him to start the trade for which he has been trained. A legacy of £500, subject to a life interest, has been bequeathed to the Society. There is an endowment fund of £1,534, and the entire work of the Society is carried on gratuitously.

Sheffield. The annual meeting of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind was held in the Lord Mayor's Parlour on February 23rd, when the Lord Mayor presided and the report for 1903 and rules for the administration of a pension fund were approved. It is hoped in time to provide funds to assist old pupils. The school has been quite full with 35 boys and 35 girls. At the workshop 27 men and 8 women have been employed, and there have been two learners. The sales amounted to £3,044 and £750 were paid in wages to the blind workpeople and a bonus of £115. There is a Home Mission department for visiting and assisting the necessitous Blind, and also cottages for the aged. The Sheffield Corporation have required certain alterations to be made in the frontage of the workshops.

BRITISH BRAILLE COMMITTEE.

The Eighth Meeting of the above Committee was held on Saturday, March 26th, 1904; 20 members being present.

The Committee re-considered the work of the previous Meeting, and the following alterations were made to the resolutions then adopted:

“That the contractions *be*, *con*, *dis*, shall only be used as the first or second, or first and second syllables of a word.”

“That the contraction *ing* be used wherever it occurs, except at the beginning of a word.”

The Report of the Sub-Committee was presented, and after some discussion it was resolved: “That the principles of the Report, so far as they conflict with the principles now governing Braille, be rejected.”

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE.

The Christmas Tree Festival of the Royal Normal College was held Tuesday, January 12th. Sir George Faudel-Phillips presided, and the tree was unveiled by Lady Faudel-Phillips. After visits to the Armitage Gymnasium and the typewriting and school classes in the Grosvenor Building, the company assembled in the Gardner Hall for a short concert. The programme began with a difficult madrigal, by Weelkes, "As Vesta was," one of the most wonderful pieces of choral writing by the old English masters. It was sung with fine intonation and absolute precision without any accompaniment. Then four little boys played an eight-handed piece, and a choir of little girls followed with a low-voiced "Lullaby," most sweetly sung, rocking their dollies the while. Part songs, for male voices, female voices, and mixed choir occupied the rest of the first part of the programme, the beautiful "On a day, alack the day," by Dr. Cummings, with its subtle harmonies and exquisite closing bars being admirably rendered. The ladies' choir sang a part-song, by Mr. Hollins, a former student, entitled "Dartside." Otto's grotesque Chinese march was given with comic effect, and "The Miller's Wooing," a choral ballad, by Eaton Fanning, was well rendered.

At the end of the musical programme Sir George Faudel-Phillips delivered a brief and earnest address, expressing his appreciation of the performance they had heard, which proved how much might be done to develop the senses of touch and hearing. The public ought to render more support to the College, not only by pecuniary assistance, but by employing the thoroughly efficient pupils as piano-tuners, typists, &c. Addressing the pupils he observed that they were developing in their education something which would make them equally well-armed to undertake the struggle for life, and to succeed among those who commenced with their quivers even better filled. He hoped they would have long and successful lives. In conclusion he referred to the excellent work accomplished by Dr. Campbell and his staff at the College.

The large Christmas Tree was then unveiled by Lady Faudel-Phillips, and a recitation given by the youngest pupil.

Mr. Henderson moved, and Mr. George Rose seconded a vote of thanks to Sir George and Lady Faudel-Phillips, who were presented from the Christmas tree with gifts made by the children.

MESSAGE BY THE BLIND.

The great difficulty experienced in finding well-paid, skilled work for the Blind has always been a cause of anxiety and distress to all who are interested in their welfare. Any occupation, therefore, for which they are fitted, and by which they can earn a good living, should be seized upon with avidity, and utilised to the fullest extent. Massage fulfils both these requirements. The Blind, in the opinion of those who are best able to judge, are eminently fitted for the work; and the occupation, when followed by suitable and well-trained operators, is amply remunerated. In Japan, where massage is universally employed, the bulk of the work has long been carried on by the Blind. Their highly developed sense of touch largely counterbalances their lack of vision, and some medical men think so much of their work that they prefer them to those who can see.

OBSTACLES.—There are obvious difficulties in the way of the Blind who follow massage as an employment, such as (1) The necessity and cost of a guide. (2) The long distances which they have to travel in going from patient to patient. (3) Doubt in the minds of some that the work done by the Blind is equal to that of those who see. (4) That lack of vision would prevent them from judging when a patient became exhausted. (5) That the fact of their being blind would have a depressing effect on a patient. (6) The obstacles in the way of their obtaining

employment after they are trained, and (7) The bad impression produced on the minds of some by the short and imperfect training which some of the Blind have received.

The first and second objections are obstacles which can be diminished or removed as soon as the Institute for Massage by the Blind has got into full working order, by the mapping out of London into districts, and arranging that one operator will, as far as possible, confine his or her work within one district, the difficulty and cost of getting about will be largely minimised, and as much of the working day as possible profitably utilised. The third objection is rapidly passing away, and will soon cease to exist, as the work of the Blind becomes better known. They have done well in private practice, and in some hydropathic establishments, infirmaries, and other institutions, they have been most successful. In one, the quality of the work done has been so highly appreciated that the fees have been doubled by the Management. The fourth objection is overcome by the operator feeling the pulse of a delicate or feeble patient at intervals, and by the natural intuition which the Blind possess. The fifth objection is removed by scrupulous attention to the health and appearance of the Blind, and by teaching them to avoid little objectionable tricks of manner, etc., which are common amongst people whose lives are narrow, and whose sphere is somewhat restricted.

With regard to the sixth objection. When an operator is trained, and wishes to settle in any part of London, or in any centre in the provinces, the help of a small committee of ladies and gentlemen who would interest themselves in giving introductions to members of the medical profession and patients, would enable a blind operator to start under favourable auspices, and quickly form a valuable clientèle. If governors of hospitals, members of Boards of Guardians, directors of hydropathic establishments, and other institutions could be interested, and resident or visiting appointments obtained, the work of the Blind would speedily be widely known, and when known, would be justly appreciated. The field of labour is rich and extensive (especially since massage has been so much more

employed recently by surgeons in many departments of their work) and as success will lift a large number of the Blind from dependence to independence, time and energy given to this part of the work will be amply rewarded. It is only right to add that when the Institute was started, and a Resident Masseuse was wanted, it was found that out of the number of already trained masseuses, only one was available, as all the others were occupied.

As to the seventh objection. It is manifest that when the idea prevailed that an operator, either blind or seeing, could be trained in two weeks to do massage, which takes two years to learn in Stockholm, the operators were not equipped to compete with those who had gone through a longer and more scientific training. The shortest time in which an intelligent man or woman can be trained is three months, and some of the Blind, like some of the seeing, may take a little longer. This is the standard of training on which the Committee of the Institute for Massage by the Blind insist, and those who have passed through this training are successfully holding their own in the open market.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES.—The choice of candidates should be made with care, and if hastily or unwisely carried out, will lead to disappointment and waste of energy and money. I will point out a few of the essentials. The recruits should be healthy, intelligent, well-educated if possible, of neat habits, and have nothing strikingly objectionable in their appearance. Good tempered, full of tact, and trained in habits of punctuality, accuracy, and thoroughness. Good average health is essential to success, as interruptions, owing to illness, will cause an operator to lose a good connection after it has been laboriously made. The teeth should be sound and carefully watched, especially the molars, as offensive breath, caused by decayed teeth or indigestion resulting from imperfect mastication, renders anyone unfit for a work which involves close personal contact with highly fastidious patients. The most suitable age for training is from 20 to 40.

QUALITY OF WORK.—The standard of the work done by the Blind entitles them to the same scale of remuneration as the seeing, and those interested in them should insist on their being paid not less than the market price.

The Institute for Massage by the Blind has been founded with the object of organizing and systematizing the work of the blind operators, and rendering them entirely self-dependent; and its root principle is to make it self-supporting by the contributions of well-paid, highly-skilled operators. There is to be no flavour of charity about the work, and as soon as the Institute is in full working order, it is to take its place alongside of the existing nursing institutes, agencies, etc., but with one essential difference, that all profits, after deducting working expenses, are the property of the blind operators. The blind labourers are worthy of their hire, and shall receive all that they earn, and will, as many are now doing, support themselves in comfort unassisted, and make some provision for the future. They are trained along with those who see, and in precisely the same manner, and can therefore compete with them on equal terms, being possessed of an equality of knowledge and of skill. The friends of the Institute have collected about £600 for the purpose of starting it, but this sum is quite insufficient to secure the whole of a house where the various departments of the work could be carried on. Such a house is essential to the complete success of the scheme. It would serve (1) as an office and employment bureau. (2) as head-quarters, where the outdoor work could be organized and London mapped out into suitable districts and allotted to selected operators, thereby saving time and money in travelling expenses, guides, etc. (3) for the reception of patients, who were able, to attend for treatment. (4) as a Home, where blind operators could lodge, so as to be ready for emergency work, and (5) where blind pupils from the provinces and abroad who were undergoing their training could reside, and thus diminish its cost, and for those operators who might find it convenient to use as a place of residence.

The cost of such a house, freehold, or with a long lease,

would be £4,000 or £5,000, but the possession of such a place would make the Institute independent and free to develop its work on the most advantageous lines.

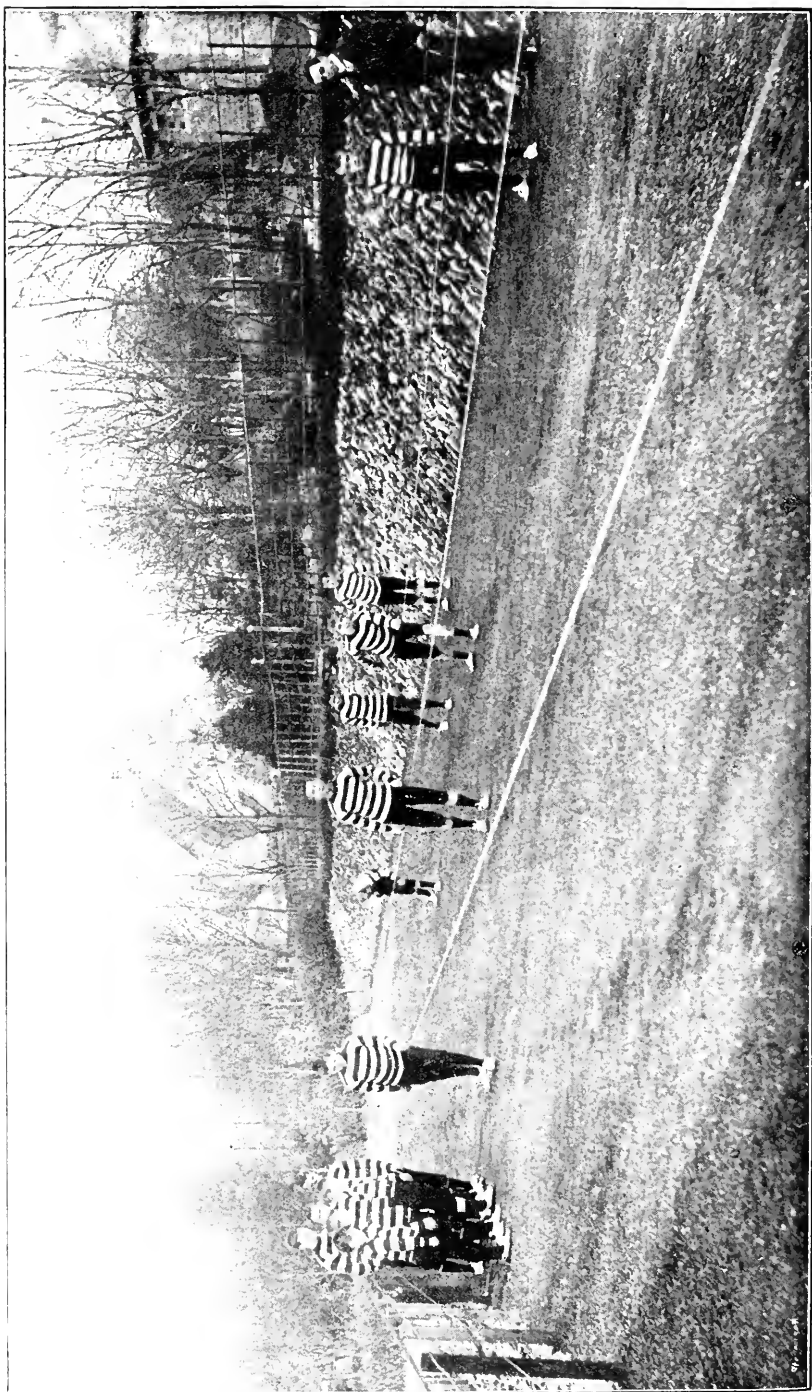
The Institute for Massage by the Blind has experienced many difficulties, owing to the state of financial depression which has existed over the whole country for some years, and has not yet passed away. The want of a few thousand pounds has greatly hampered its progress. A commencement, however, has been made at 64, Lancaster Gate, W., where patients can be received for treatment, and from which operators can be sent out. The effort is a practical one, and pregnant with good. It now remains with wise philanthropists to see that it has a fair start.

Mrs. MacNicol, the Hon. Secretary, will gladly give all information to applicants. Her deep and ceaseless interest in the work, and her untiring devotion, claim sympathy and support, and any assistance given in making the work more widely known would be much appreciated by the Committee.

Mr. Henry Power, F.R.C.S., the Chairman of the Institute, and Mr. F. O. Smithers, the Hon. Treasurer, 171, Adelaide Road, South Hampstead, N.W., are both deeply interested in the scheme, and have devoted much time to its organisation, and would be greatly encouraged by financial help.

JOHN FLETCHER LITTLE,

M.B., Cantab.; M.R.C.P., Lond.



The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 27.

JULY 20TH, 1904.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 24th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

In this number there is an interesting article by Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Headmaster of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, on what has been done in Scotland for the education of the Blind.

For our next number we have been kindly promised an article on the Higher Education of the Blind, with special reference to the College at Worcester, by the Rev. Jaffray B. Nicholson, M.A., the Headmaster, and also an account of Mr. John Melrose, the successful blind sheep-farmer in South Australia, by Mr. Alfred Hirst of Whitby, whom we take this opportunity of congratulating on the recent brilliant success of his daughter, Miss M. E. Hirst, in obtaining a First Class in the Classical Tripos at Cambridge.

Dr. Andrew Wilson has also kindly promised to write an article for some future number.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. Preliminaries have been taken towards holding another Conference next year. It will be remembered that one of the outcomes of the Conference organised by the Committee of Gardner's Trust in April, 1902, was the formation of the following Committee for making arrangements for the next Conference,

viz., the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, the Rev. St. Clare Hill. Dr. Campbell, and Messrs. Illingworth, Munby, Pine, Stainsby, Tate and Wilson. Mr. Pine was appointed convener by the Committee of Gardner's Trust, and accepted the post. At the time it was also suggested that the next conference should be held in 1905, somewhere in the Midlands, but this, of course, is matter for the consideration of the Committee.

2. Mr. J. H. Gordon Smith, B.A., of Keble College, Oxford, who took honours in Modern History last July, and is an old pupil of the Worcester Blind College, was ordained Deacon on May 29th at Ely Cathedral by the Bishop of Ely. Mr. Smith is now settling down to parish work, having charge of a large district attached to the parish of St. Katherine's, Pontypriid, and we wish him all success in his new and all important and responsible sphere of work.

3. The Rev. J. Swinnerton, B.A. has accepted a curacy in the Garw valley, in the Diocese of Llandaff. A handsome money testimonial was raised for him on relinquishing his first curacy of Magor, which he had held for over two years.

4. Mr. G. M. Llewellyn, M.A., late of the Worcester Blind College, and of Jesus College, Oxford, who took second class Honours in Modern History, has recently taken a B.D. degree at the University of Wales. We congratulate Mr. Llewellyn on his success. He is now a graduate of two universities, which we think cannot be said of any other blind man in the country.

5. The Rev. G. C. Pope, M.A., Curate of Llandeuvod and Warden of the Country Home for the Blind, is acting as Locum Tenens in the parish of Greenwich, until Christmas. Mr. J. W. Brown, a former student of Worcester Blind College, is acting, for the present, as Warden of the Home.

6. Miss Helen Keller, whose "Story of my Life" is so well known, has recently brought out an essay on Optimism,

published by Messrs. Isbister & Co., and has also graduated B.A. at Radcliffe, the principal University for Women in America. She passed "cum laude," and the words, "excellent in letters," have been added to her diploma.

7. Mr. Sam Dowdeswell, B.A., an old pupil of Worcester Blind College, has started a Home for the upper and middle-class Blind, and is prepared to receive either permanent or temporary boarders. Mrs. Dowdeswell is a trained nurse and is prepared to take charge of any person who may have had a recent operation on the eyes. All communications as to terms, &c., should be made to Mrs. Dowdeswell at The Birches, Churchdown, near Cheltenham. The Home is pleasantly situated and three minutes walk from the railway station.

8. In June last there were some specially interesting recitals and lectures at the Royal Normal College for the Blind. Four lectures on the religions of China, by the Rev. Arthur Elwin, who was a missionary in China for 25 years; a most artistic and enjoyable pianoforte recital by Miss Fanny Davies, who played for two hours selections from Scarlatti, Bach, Beethoven, Schumann, Chopin, Brahms and Liszt; and interesting recitals by Mr. Victor Benham and the Rev. F. L. Meares.

9. Meetings of the British Braille Committee have been held on April 30th, May 28th, and June 25th, when various paragraphs of the sub-Committee's report have been amended and revised, and abbreviations have been provisionally adopted. It has been agreed that the dividing line between grades 2 and 3 must be at once sharp and simple. The work is proceeding slowly, and it is, as yet, uncertain when the final report will be presented to Gardner's Trust for the Blind, and the British and Foreign Blind Association.

10. We have heard of several other Education Authorities, besides those mentioned in our last number, which have promised to assist in the higher education of the Blind after the age of 16 years, and the Stafford County Education Committee,

owing largely to the representations made by Mr. Greatbatch, the energetic Chairman of the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind, have decided to offer the following scholarships:—

- (1) An annual scholarship of £60, to enable a blind boy or girl to proceed to a residential school or college as might be approved by the County Education Committee, for the purpose of receiving training in music, or other subject or subjects, and
 - (2) an annual scholarship of £35, to maintain a blind boy or girl in an approved institution or school for the purpose of receiving training in pianoforte-tuning or other suitable branch of work. It is proposed that these scholarships should be limited to boys and girls whose parents or guardians were or had been for one year immediately preceding the award of the scholarship resident in the administrative county of Stafford. The conditions of tenure laid down for ordinary county scholarships would apply to these scholarships for the Blind, which would be awarded by two examiners appointed by the county.
-

11. We have to acknowledge with grateful thanks receipt of the following interesting publications:—Report of the Commission to investigate the condition of the adult Blind in the State of New York, to which we hope to refer in our next number, the 68th report of the New York Institution for the Blind, the 72nd report of the Perkins Institution, Boston, two addresses by Mr. M. Anagnos, the 3rd annual report of the Perkins Institution upon the work of the instruction of the adult Blind at their homes, a Statement prepared by the Perkins Institution for the use of the State Board of Education of Massachusetts, and Proceedings of the Department of Special Education.

12. The Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, commemorates its Jubilee this year. "In May, 1854, Bessie's (Miss Gilbert's) scheme was started," writes Miss Gilbert's biographer. "Seven blind men were employed at their homes, material was purchased for, and supplied to, them at cost price; the articles manufactured were to be disposed of on their account, and they

were to receive the full selling price, minus the cost of material. A cellar was rented in New Turnstile, Holborn, at the cost of 1s. 6d. a week, and Levy (a blind man) was engaged as manager with a salary of 2s. 6d. a week, and a percentage upon the sales." From these small beginnings sprang the present large Institution in Tottenham Court Road, which gives regular employment to 84 workpeople.

13. The typewriting offices of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind have been removed from Temple Courts to Christ Church Passage, New Street, Birmingham, where the Committee have recently opened a shop for the sale of their goods.

14. The Asylum for the Blind, Queen's Road, Bristol, has issued an excellent illustrated price list of baskets, hampers, door-mats, brushes, &c., which are on sale at the Institution, with a preface by the Chaplain and Superintendent, who gives a brief sketch of the Institution from its foundation in 1793, and the trades carried on there.

15. Mr. Alfred Hollins, the well-known organist and old pupil of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, sailed for Australia on May 20th, and has been engaged to give sixteen recitals in Sydney.

16. Two pupils from the Birmingham Institution for the Blind have been recently engaged as typists at the Remington Typewriter Company's head office in Gracechurch Street, London.

17. Nearly 70 automatic Braillewriters, the invention of Messrs. Stainsby & Wayne, have already been sold or ordered.

18. The following is an extract from the report issued last March to the Birmingham Education Committee, on the Secondary and Higher Education, by Alfred Hughes, M.A., Organising Professor of Education in the University of Birmingham:—"The education given to blind children and deaf and dumb children up to the age of 16 may be reckoned as elementary

education, and the excellent work of the two Institutions at Edgbaston does not therefore fall within the scope of this report. It may be said, however, that each of these schools serves a very large area of country round Birmingham, and only about half the children come from Birmingham homes. The work of the Institution for the Blind has been so far extended as to include what is practically a Technical School for the Blind and a Factory on a small scale whose employees are blind people. The industries which are here developed are of the most varied character, and are so arranged as to make the fullest use of those faculties which are capable of most development in blind people; they fall as a rule into three classes, (*a*) manual work: baskets, brushes, &c.; (*b*) commercial: shorthand, typewriting, &c.; (*c*) Music. The extension of the educational work beyond the age of 16 seems to be necessary in order to fit blind persons to earn their own living, and it would seem reasonable to expect local authorities to aid the institutions in the carrying on of that department of their work which I have referred to as a technical school. At present, in the case of the poor, the local authority contributes £26 5s. od. (out of an estimated cost of £45) per child per annum towards the education up to the age of 16, but after that age no public payment is made."

19. A work-room was opened last April at Werneth Hall, Oldham, for the instruction and employment of blind women in the town. The room has been generously provided by Miss Lees, who also kindly pays the tram fares of the women and provides them with a free dinner. Miss Millicent Field, who was eight years with the Class for the Blind at Bradford, is superintending the work, to which we wish all success.

20. The Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind has purchased Mrs. Gray's Braille music library, to which we referred in paragraph 8 of our last number. The music is now in circulation, and terms can be obtained from the Secretary of the Library, 114, Belsize Road, N.W. The announcement in the last number that new premises in Bayswater

had been secured for the Library was premature, as the arrangement unexpectedly fell through when all seemed settled. The report for 1903 just published states that the Library now contains over 7,000 volumes in Moon and Braille types, and that 11 blind writers and copyists have been employed, who have produced about 100 volumes, and more than 400 have been contributed by voluntary writers. The Committee have purchased 1,000 volumes from the British and Foreign Blind Association.

21. A sub-committee of the British and Foreign Blind Association have been recently formed, under the name of "Technical and Book Committee," with Mr. Henry Stainsby as chairman, and we are asked to state that they kindly request inventors and others interested in appliances for the Blind to submit their ideas to the said committee for their consideration. They are also anxious to make enquiries as to which is the cheapest, most portable and most efficient typewriting machine for writing the ordinary characters used by the seeing, with a view to its being used by the Blind, or being modified to suit them. All communications should be sent to the Secretary of the Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

22. The managers of the Aberdeen Asylum for the Blind have decided to close the educational and inmate department, because the number of children seeking admission has largely declined.

23. The Society for Granting Annuities to the Poor Adult Blind increased its number of pensioners to 150 at the election on May 25th, when 22 new pensioners were elected.

24. The Richmond Institution for the Blind, 41, Upper Sackville Street, Dublin, is being enlarged, and brushmaking is being introduced as a new industry.

25. Alderman Wakerley, who presented the site on which the Wycliffe Cottage Homes for the Blind have been built, has recently presented the Wycliffe Society for helping the Blind with a further site on which it is proposed to erect a hall, for a Library and general purposes.

26. The Workshop for the Blind at Wakefield has recently been removed from 158, Westgate to new premises at 19, Queen Street.

27. The foundation stone of a new Home of Rest for the Blind was laid at Southport on 11th May by Miss Isabel M. Heywood, in connection with the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, to which she acts as Hon. Secretary. The home is intended to receive blind people for change and rest, not only from Manchester and Salford, but from towns in the North of England, when societies for the Blind want to send their people for a holiday. It is called the Godfrey Ermen Memorial Home of Rest for the Blind, and we referred to the gift of £5,000 which has enabled the Home to be erected in paragraph No. 15 of No. 24 of *The Blind*. A special service of consecration was undertaken by the Rev. Dr. Porter, Vicar of All Saints, in whose parish the home is being built, and he and Mr. Gerald Peel were the chief speakers and thanked Miss Heywood for having laid the stone, on which are inscribed the words "In Domino Confido—This stone of the Godfrey Ermen Memorial Home of Rest for the Blind was laid by Isabel Mary Heywood on the eleventh day of May, 1904." We understand that the Home will probably not be opened until May next year.

28. A new school for blind children is going to be built at a cost of about £6,000, and the work has already commenced, at Benwell Dene, Newcastle-on-Tyne, to take the place of the present temporary iron building.

29. The annual meeting of the North London Homes for the Blind, was held on May 31st, when it was announced that the Committee had decided to extend the premises, and that Nos. 65 and 67, Hanley Road, adjoining the Homes, had been purchased at a cost of £1,900.

30. The festival dinner in aid of the funds of the Royal Blind Pension Society, was held on May 19th, when Mr. Leopold de Rothschild presided, and about £2,000 were received in donations. The Rev. H. J. R. Marston was one of the speakers. There are now 1,100 blind people receiving annuities from the Society.

31. The festival dinner of the Royal Normal College for the Blind was held on April 21st, when Lord Howard de Walden presided. The amount contributed in donations was £1,700. Some of the students gave an excellent musical entertainment during the evening.

32. The late Mr. George Handyside has bequeathed to the Newcastle, Gateshead and District Workshops for the Adult Blind a legacy of £10,000 free of legacy duty.

33. Mr. Arthur Wilmot, Beethoven House, 24, Dingwall Road, Croydon, writes us that he has for sale at a very reduced price a fine tandem tricycle in excellent condition, built for a blind man.

34. Lord Herries, when speaking at the annual meeting of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, stated that one of his sisters had been at the head of an Asylum for the Blind, as a Sister of Charity, for thirty years. At the same meeting Mr. H. V. Scott, Chairman of the York Education Committee, is reported in *The Yorkshire Herald* to have said, that he "heartily sympathised with the remarks that the nation as a whole had not recognised its duty in the matter of the education of the Blind to the extent that it ought to have done, but at the same time he should be sorry if the State took over the entire management of such institutions, and deprived the gentlemen who hitherto had had the privilege and honour of carrying on such a noble work as had been carried on in that institution. There were two reasons. He should be sorry to deprive them of the pleasure of the duties they had performed with so much advantage, and, another was that when such transactions took place there was liable to be great misapprehension and ill-feeling as to the way the work has been carried out. It was apt to be looked down on by the State, and the people who had carried on the work instead of being thanked were kicked out and told they had done their work badly. That was rather the fate of the voluntary schools at the present time."

35. We have been favoured by the Education Committee of the Royal Commission for the St. Louis Exhibition with a copy of the British Official Catalogue of the Education and Social Economy Collective Exhibit. Very few British Institutions and Societies for the Blind seem to have sent any exhibits. In fact under "Education of Defectives" the only exhibitors are Gardner's Trust, the Royal Normal College, and the British and Foreign Blind Association. But we notice that photographs of the Leeds School, and of the Schools under the London School Board have also been sent.

36. Specimens of Moon's type in 400 languages, together with embossed maps, diagrams and pictures on card have been sent to the St. Louis Exhibition by the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society for the Blind, and are displayed in cabinets, which represent a surface of 284 square feet.

37. The following is a copy of a recent enactment of the United States Congress :—" An act to promote the circulation of reading matter among the Blind." " Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That books, pamphlets and other reading matter in raised characters for the use of the Blind, whether prepared by hand or printed, in single volumes, not exceeding ten pounds in weight, or in packages, not exceeding four pounds in weight, and containing no advertising or other matter whatever, unsealed and when sent by public institutions for the Blind, or by any public libraries, as a loan to blind readers, or when returned by the latter to such institutions or public libraries, shall be transmitted in the United States mails free of postage, and under such regulations as the Postmaster-General may prescribe." Approved, April 27th, 1904. This enactment was put into force on June 4th by Postmaster-General Payne. The British and Foreign Blind Association approached the Postmaster-General in England with a view to his receiving a deputation on this subject, but he replied that he thought no useful purpose would be served thereby.

38. In the Chicago "*Christian Record*" it was reported not long ago that a blind girl was going to be taught as an experiment, the use of the potter's wheel. But this is no new idea, as was supposed, because three years ago we watched with much interest some children in the Birmingham Institution for the Blind using the wheel most dexterously, and at the Conference in April, 1902, Mr. Stainsby, Secretary of the Institution, referred in the paper which he read on "Professions and Trades best adapted for the Blind," to the "clay spinning" of the children, and to the assurance of a practical designer and worker in clay, "that there was every probability of the Blind excelling in the manufacture of certain classes of earthenware which could be moulded on the potter's wheel." Mr. Greatbatch, however, of Stoke-on-Trent, speaking "as a pottery man," thought it impossible.

39. The regular biennial Convention of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind will be held on July 20th, 21st, and 22nd, in St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.

40. On April 16th the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of York gave a tea and entertainment in the Guildhall to all the Blind in York, including the children in the school, and each guest received by post a separate invitation in Braille, the City Arms being embossed on all the cards.

41. We hear that the movement for the Blind in Italy is now making much progress in consequence of the support given to it by the Queen. This year for the first time the Government has assigned 30,000 lire for the benefit of the Blind. The money is to be expended directly in training them to support themselves. Hitherto, the instruction has been chiefly in music, and none has been given to those above 18 years of age. From the same source we hear of an Italian who met with a terrible accident whilst making explosives, which blew off both legs and one arm, and caused the loss of sight in both eyes. He has, however, learnt to read and write Braille.

42. A bazaar is to be held October 20th, 21st and 22nd, on behalf of the Aid Association for the Out-door Blind at the Berkeley Hall, Glasgow. The Workshop, Home and Recreation Rooms are at 6, Main Street, Anderston, Glasgow, where 30 blind persons are employed.

INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES.

Belfast. The annual meeting of the Belfast Association for Employment of Industrious Blind, 28, Royal Avenue, Belfast, was held on March 21st, when the Right Hon. Lord O'Neill presided, and the 32nd annual report for the year ended December 31st, 1903, was adopted. 125 blind and 9 deaf and dumb, of whom 92 are men and 42 women, were benefited and £3,010 were paid in wages. Charitable allowances were also made to the extent of £323. Basket, brush and mattress making, and their subsidiaries, such as willow peeling, &c., are the chief industries. Between 80 and 90 workers make use daily of the dining rooms, erected about two years ago. The sales amounted to £17,094. There is a Home Teaching branch and also a Braille Library, which is open to all the Blind of the City.

Birkenhead. The annual meeting of the Birkenhead Society for the Blind was held at the Workshop, 146, Oxton Road, on March 15th, when the Mayor presided and the report for 1903 was adopted. The society employs a blind teacher to visit the Blind and also maintains a workshop, and thus tries to keep in touch with, and assist, all blind persons in the district. The sales amounted to £308, and the loss on the year's working in the workshop amounted to £99. The proceeds of an entertainment amounted to £95. £150 were paid in wages.

Brighton. The Barclay Home for blind and partially blind girls, 25, Wellington Road, Brighton, has issued a very satisfactory report for the year ended December 31st, 1903.

At the close of the year there were 39 in the Home. All the laundry work of the Home is now done by the girls in a special building erected for the purpose at the bottom of the garden, and last year a little outside laundry work was also undertaken. Some of the girls manage the looms very skilfully and weave excellent dusters, etc.

Bristol. The annual meeting of the Bristol Asylum or School of Industry for the Blind, Queen's Road, Bristol, was held on May 5th, when the High Sheriff of Bristol presided and the report for the year ended December 31st, 1903 was presented. The numbers benefited during the year were 75 inmates (44 boys and 31 girls) of whom 42 are under the age of 16, and 31 outworkers (28 men and 3 women). There have been several structural alterations and rearrangements of the buildings. In the new basket-shop there is accommodation for about 30 men. A brush-shop has also been started. A register for former pupils is kept, and the sponsors who receive the grants for starting the pupils on leaving school are written to at the close of each year. Three women have recently been employed as outworkers. The legacies amounted to £636. The trade receipts amounted to £1592 and £562 were paid to the out-door Blind in wages. Six blind women received £4 10s. and three £2 10s. each from the Kempe Trust Fund.

Cornwall. The annual meeting of the Society for itinerant teaching of the Blind in the County of Cornwall was held in Truro on December 19th, 1903, when the 45th annual report for 1902-3 was adopted. A full list is given of all blind persons in the different districts, classified as readers and non-readers, and reports on the teachers' work.

Dublin. The annual report of the Richmond National Institution for the instruction of the industrious Blind, 41, Upper Sackville Street, Dublin, for the twelve months ended December 31st, 1903, is published, and was presented at the general meeting held on May 2nd. The Institution was founded in 1810; the inmates, of whom there are 30 men and

one woman, are maintained gratis, and are instructed in trades, and the 28 outworkers are provided with employment, and their earnings are supplemented. The sales amounted to £2,782, and £643 were paid in wages to the blind outworkers.

Greenwich. The report of the Workshop for the Blind of Kent, 49, London Street, Greenwich, S.E., for the year ended December 31st, 1903, shows that the sales amounted to £1509, and that the sum of £719 was paid to blind workmen, of whom the number is not given. Only men are admitted to the Workshop.

Liverpool. The report of the Catholic Blind Asylum, 59, Brunswick Road, and of the school at Yew Tree Lane, West Derby, Liverpool, for the year ended December 31st, 1903 was read at the annual meeting held on May 9th. At the end of the year there were 194 inmates, viz., 35 men, 63 women and 96 children. This Institution is in charge of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. The proceeds of the annual bazaar amounted to £621 and in addition there was an anonymous gift of £500 and £161 in legacies. There is a mortgage debt of £9,700.

London. (a) The annual meeting of the London Society for teaching the Blind to Read, 10, Upper Avenue Road, N.W., was held on May 7th when the Bishop of Stepney presided and the 66th annual report was adopted. The number of pupils on the books during 1903 was 68, viz., 38 boys and 30 girls. The sales amounted to £596, being an increase of more than £100 over the previous year's sales, and the blind journey-men have had constant employment. The embossing department is now nearly self-supporting, and two blind printers and a blind, apprentice have been fully employed. Legacies were received amounting to £1,644,

(b) The 41st annual report of the South London Association for the Blind for the year ended the 31st January last has been published and shows continuous work in the various classes held in Walworth, Brixton and Kennington. The work of the Association of which there are 137 blind members, is conducted

on purely voluntary lines. The loans during the year amounted in the aggregate to £109 in sums varying from 5s. to £3, which are repaid by small weekly instalments without interest. Pensions of £5 a year are granted to four blind persons and of £2 a year to 40.

(c) The report of the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, W. for the year 1903 is published, and states that the Jubilee year of the Society to which we refer in paragraph No. 12 has begun. During 1903 £2,186 were paid in wages and commission, £620 in gifts and supplementary wages and £330 in pensions. The sales amounted to £12,085. It is in contemplation to remove the factory to a cheaper locality and the shop to a more suitable thoroughfare, if the present premises can be advantageously disposed of. The Association finds employment for 84 blind men and women and provides pensions for 20 more.

(d) The report of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, at Norwood, for the year ended December 31st, 1903, shows that there was an average attendance of 158 resident pupils during the year, and that the greatest number of pupils was 162. Reference is made to the grand concert at the Albert Hall, on July 2nd, to which attention was called at the time in these pages, both in the Executive Committee's, and in the Principal's reports. The remarks by the Principal on pianoforte tuning examinations, and physical training are most valuable, and should be carefully laid to heart by all those interested in the education of the Blind.

Newcastle-on-Tyne. (a) The annual meeting of the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Benwell Dene, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was held on March 22nd, when the Bishop of Newcastle presided and the report for the year ended December 31st, 1903 was adopted. The numbers in the School were 49 boys and 31 girls. Six of the pupils over 16 years of age are boarded out. A new building for the School is being erected at a cost of £6,000. Six pupils were presented at the local examination of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and

all of them passed, two of them with honours. £2,607 were received in legacies.

(6) The 37th annual report of the Newcastle, Gateshead and District Workshops for the Adult Blind, 44c, Blackett Street, Newcastle-on Tyne, for the year ended March 31st, 1904, has been published. There are 19 male and 5 female blind workers employed. The wages paid to the Blind amounted to £670, and the sales to £1,749. A legacy of £10,000 is announced.

Northampton. The report of the Northampton and County Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind for the year ended December 31st, 1903 states that there are now 15 blind persons employed in connection with the workshop which has been removed from Newland to York Road. The net balance produced by the Bazaar in October last was £1,247. The sales amounted to £1,060, and £569 were paid in wages.

Norwich. The report of the Asylum and School for the Indigent Blind, 132, Magdalen Street, Norwich, for the year 1903, shows that the number on the books is 47; viz., nine non-resident journeymen, 12 males and 13 females in the Technical School, and four males and nine females in the Asylum. The sales amounted to £530, and £180 were paid in wages to the journeymen. There was a legacy of £90.

Wakefield. The annual meeting of the Wakefield and District Societies for the Blind, was held on January 26th, when the report for 1903 was approved. There is a Home Teaching Society, and also a workshop, which was opened three years ago, recently removed to 19, Queen Street, Wakefield. There are on the books 66 blind people, of whom 5 men and 6 women are employed at the workshop. The sum of £82 was paid in wages to blind workers, and the sales amounted to £157. A sick and benefit branch has been started.

Wolverhampton. The annual meeting of the Wolverhampton Society for the Blind was held on May 5th, when the Mayor presided and the report for the year ended

December 31st, 1903 was adopted. The special speakers were Mr. A. L. Lowe and Mr. H. Stainsby of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind. There are 134 names of blind persons on the register who are regularly visited by the blind teacher. The sales from the Workshop, where 17 men and 4 women are employed, amounted to £1,376, and the wages paid to work-people amounted to £413. There is a flourishing Sick Benefit Society, and the aged and sick have been assisted by grants from the Horsman Fund. A legacy of £98 was received and placed to the endowment fund.

WHAT IS BEING DONE FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND IN SCOTLAND.

Although Scotland cannot claim the first Institution for the Blind in Britain, it certainly led the van in the matter of Blind education. The Institution at Liverpool was founded in 1791, and those at Edinburgh and Bristol in 1793.

No English book printed in relief for the use of the Blind appeared until the year 1827, and the credit of this achievement belongs to James Gall, of Edinburgh. The alphabet adopted by Mr. Gall was the common Roman capital letter, modified so as to produce angles instead of curves. In connection with so important a subject as the invention of printing in relief, I may be pardoned if I give the details of its origin, so far as this country is concerned, at some length. The following extracts from the Minutes of the Edinburgh Blind Asylum are of great interest.

Edinburgh, October 26th, 1827.

“At a meeting of the Managers of the Blind Asylum, Edinburgh, of this date. The meeting proceeded to examine the nature and efficiency of the books lately printed for the use of the Blind. Some of the boys belonging to the Asylum were introduced, who, though the books had been in their possession

only a few weeks, and although they had got no regular teaching, were able readily to distinguish all the letters. . . . They afterwards read slowly, but correctly, in different parts. . . . The Directors were of opinion that the art promised to be of the greatest practical utility to the Blind. . . . Mr. Gall also stated that the apparatus for writing to, and by, the Blind, were in a state of considerable forwardness—some of these he exhibited to the Meeting. The letters were easily formed on common post letter-paper by one motion of the hand, and were correctly and invariably distinguished by the blind boys present. . . .”

In 1828 a Committee was formed by the Rev. Dr. Baird, the Principal of the University of Edinburgh, to examine and report upon the methods of reading, writing, etc., introduced by Mr. Gall. . . . The proceedings were held in the hall of the University, and the report of the Committee expressed the strongest approval of Mr. Gall’s past labours and future plans. A report was also issued in the same year by a Committee, formed at the instance of a public meeting held at Glasgow, which entirely endorsed the opinions expressed in the documents drawn up at Edinburgh University and Blind Asylum. The Glasgow Committee was presided over by the Very Rev. W. McFarlane, Principal of the College at Glasgow, and it is worthy of notice that one of the signatures attached to the report is that of John Alston, Secretary of the Glasgow Blind Asylum—of the sequel, Scotsmen have good reason to be proud.

In 1829 Mr. Gall had the honour of introducing the art of embossed printing for the Blind into England. In that year he visited London, and exhibited the acquirements of a pupil at a meeting held at the Poultry Chapel. On re-visiting London in 1831, Mr. Gall succeeded in teaching several of the inmates of the School for the Indigent Blind, Southwark (now at Leatherhead), to read and write, for which service he was voted an honorarium of 50 guineas. This gift Mr. Gall generously declined, and was made a Life Governor of the Institution. Returning to Edinburgh in January, 1832, he finished the Gospel of St. John, the first book of the Scriptures printed *for the use of the Blind*. In 1832 the Edinburgh Society of Arts offered a

gold medal of the value of £20 for the best method of printing for the Blind. In consequence of this announcement, nineteen different alphabets were submitted to the Society between the 9th January, 1832, and 25th February, 1835. Of these sixteen were purely arbitrary, *i.e.*, were not formed from the Roman or common English alphabet. Mr. Gall was an unsuccessful competitor. The various alphabets were sent for examination to the different Schools, which were then only in their very infancy, and as the inmates were all young, their opinions were of little value, as the sequel showed.

The medal was awarded to Dr. Edmund Fry, whose alphabet consisted of the ordinary capital letters denuded of their small strokes, an alphabet which never attained any practical success.

Mr. Alston, of Glasgow—already mentioned—first printed books in 1837, using the ordinary Roman capital embossed. In 1838 he completed the New Testament, and in 1840 the whole Bible, the work being accelerated by a grant of £400 from the Royal Treasury. Several other works followed, but all of these are now out of print; and since the death of Mr. Alston in 1846, nothing has issued from the Glasgow Press save a few reprints, the character employed being found too small and impracticable. From this time onward Dr. Moon's type was employed in Scotland for reading purposes, whilst Alston's ingenious device was used for writing. This invention consisted of square pegs about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and $\frac{3}{8}$ inch square, on one end surface of which he arranged short, sharp pins in the form of the Roman letter, one letter on each peg. By means of a suitable frame and ruler, the former bedded with flannel or baize upon which the paper was laid, these points were then pressed firmly in turn upon the paper; the sharp points piercing the paper, threw up in clear relief the desired letter on the obverse side. and could be read with ease. This method of writing came as a great boon to the Blind, and was practically the only means of written communication for blind people until the introduction of the Braille system, and, in fact, for a long time after, some people using it, even yet.

Edinburgh, as might be expected, kept well to the front in all matters connected with the education of the Blind, and in 1874 the Directors of the Royal Blind Asylum, having taken over the charge and responsibilities of the Blind School, which had previously existed separately, opened a splendid Institution at West Craigmillar for children and adult females, the whole to be conducted under one Board of Management as "The Royal Blind Asylum and School."

In 1885, all books, with the exception of those in Braille type, were banished from the educational curriculum at West Craigmillar, and not long thereafter, this example was followed in whole or in part by the other Scottish Institutions. One year previously this school was placed under Government Inspection and was awarded the usual capitation grants on examination by H.M. Inspectors—the first blind school in the Kingdom to enjoy this privilege.

In 1891 the first, and as yet the only, Braille printing press in Scotland, was established at West Craigmillar. The first book issued therefrom being "The Shorter Catechism." To the honour and credit of Mr. Duncan Lees, one of the music masters at that institution, be it said, however, that some years previously he had, by means of types of his own devising, prepared plates from which some small works, mathematical, classical, and musical were embossed.

Several of Messrs. T. Nelson & Sons' school publications followed "The Shorter Catechism" in quick succession, and found a ready market, and in 1893 *Hora Jucunda*, the now popular monthly magazine for the Blind, had its inception, and two years afterwards a musical periodical, the *Craigmillar Harp*, now issued quarterly, appeared, containing choice works, vocal and instrumental.

A glance at the catalogue of the West Craigmillar publications suffices to show that this press has done, and is doing, a great educational work, and deservedly merits the large amount of patronage bestowed upon it.

In 1895 the editor of *Hora Jucunda* offered a prize of £5 for the best method of Braille Shorthand Writing for the Blind.

Some excellent competitive schemes were sent in, and after these had been submitted to Dr Campbell, of Norwood, the late Mr. Buckle, of York, and other Braille experts, the prize was awarded to a collaborated effort which emanated from the Birmingham Institution at Edgbaston. This system of shorthand is now taught in all the principal schools, and by means of a neat and ingenious little machine invented by Mr. Stainsby—the enthusiastic and able secretary of the Birmingham Institution—and known as the Stainsby-Wayne shorthand machine, a blind typist can, with ease, take down notes at the rate of 110 to 120 words per minute, and is thus provided with a most valuable adjunct to the ordinary typewriting machine, which latter forms part of the educational apparatus in all the best schools for the Blind in Scotland, and is acknowledged to be, apart altogether from its commercial possibilities, a most important form of intellectual training, conducing, as it does, to correctness of spelling, habits of neatness and accuracy, and to deftness of fingering.

So far as education in the ordinary English subjects, as also in useful technical branches, such as modelling, bead-and-wire work, basket-making, and carpentry are concerned, the schools in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee are all doing excellent work, under Government Certificated Head Teachers, with competent staffs.

Glasgow is numerically the largest school, and a number of the pupils are day-scholars. So far as I can learn, this was the first properly organised school for juveniles to be established in Scotland, if not in Britain, it having been started about the year 1830, or nearly seven years before the Edinburgh school. It is now an up-to-date school in every respect, the building having within recent years been re-constructed so as to provide a separate class-room for each class, furnished with the most approved fittings and apparatus.

In this school are 95 children, and the following summary from H.M. Inspector's report gives evidence of satisfactory work.

“The School is conducted with admirable skill, the

teachers are, without exception, earnest in their work, and tactful and sympathetic in dealing with their pupils. The children are bright and happy, their behaviour is excellent and their work would do credit to pupils not physically handicapped."

Last year two pupils were successful in obtaining Marshall Trust Bursaries, which will provide further secondary education.

The Dundee school is much smaller, numbering only 23 on the register, including two senior pupils in music and higher education. H.M. Inspector last year reported as follows:—

"The School is admirably conducted, and the pupils are evidently making good progress under the intelligent and devoted tuition of Miss Dawson."

That the Musical Department is successfully conducted is shown by the fact that one of the pupils last year was able to carry off the A.R.C.O. degree in London.

The schools at Inverness and Aberdeen are smaller still, but do their little best. It is a matter for question, however, whether the pupils in these very small schools, where the teaching power and appliances are necessarily limited, would not have a better chance if sent to one of the larger and more perfectly equipped Institutions. Aberdeen Institution, I understand, is shortly to discontinue its school.

The teaching of blind children in the ordinary Board Schools is attempted in some Scotch towns and villages, either collected together in classes under itinerant teachers, or separately as units of ordinary sighted classes. Neither of these methods is quite satisfactory, as in most cases the pupils so treated have to be sent to a residential school at about 14 years of age, and it is sad to find how backward—in some cases hopelessly backward—they are, as a result of the lack of *early special* training.

The school at West Craigmillar usually numbers between 50 and 60 pupils. A sufficient staff is provided for the English department so that the average number of scholars to each teacher may not exceed 10. H.M. Inspector's last report speaks for itself as to the results achieved:—

"The School maintains the high reputation which it has for

many years held. The pupils show great alertness and enthusiasm. Their enjoyment of their school-life is obvious. In a fairly searching oral examination they gave evidence of at least as much intelligence and of as much knowledge of school subjects as well trained children who have fewer difficulties to overcome, and, in occupations specially appropriate to their Institution their deftness is remarkable. Special notice may be taken of the excellence of drill and of singing. Further comments this year would be either hyper-criticism or unnecessary eulogy on a school whose name is already made."

This is the only Scotch school where bent iron work forms part of the educational curriculum. This class of work, whilst providing an excellent form of manual training, is decidedly attractive and finds a very ready sale. A share of the profits on all goods made by the children in school, whether bent iron, basket-work, bead-and-wire, or carpentry, is banked for the respective makers, and given to them in a lump sum, when they leave school.

The Directors of the Institution have spared neither effort nor money in their laudable desire to make the school second to none in the Kingdom. On several occasions I have been sent on a tour of inspection of the best Blind Institutions in Britain and on the Continent, in order that the school at West Craigmillar might be supplied with the most up-to-date ideas and apparatus, and now our educational machinery is equal to the best in the country.

When I came to the Institution in 1885 most of the books on the shelves of the school library were in Moon's type, and of a religious or devotional character, Queen Victoria's "Life in the Highlands" being perhaps the most interesting of a secular character. Braille had been taught for some years, and there were a number of school books in that type, also a few volumes of Shakespeare. Now we have no Moon's books at all. Our library contains nearly 2,000 volumes, and includes educational, historical, and biographical works of the most modern kind, and hundreds of volumes of fiction by popular authors. I have an army of over 30 lady volunteer writers of Braille, whose united

efforts add on an average about 100 volumes a year to the library. A natural result of so much healthy and interesting literature ready to their hands is a remarkably extensive development of intellect, and a widening of the mental horizon of the pupils, who simply revel in their books, and almost intuitively acquire a good knowledge of English. The fact that in a recent essay competition open to the Band of Hope members throughout Scotland, the first three prizes were halved with West Craigmillar pupils (one of the remaining three halves going to a pupil of the Glasgow Institution), proves that our blind boys and girls more than hold their own with their seeing brothers and sisters from an educational point of view.

As at Norwood, so at West Craigmillar, physical training holds an important place, and is considered of primary importance. A magnificent Gymnasium, replete with the most improved apparatus is one of the chief delights of the pupils, but even more are they attracted by their running track, which was laid out only three years ago; and as the idea is, I believe, quite new and original, and at the same time an inestimable boon to blind children, I take this opportunity of describing it at some length, in the hope that it may be adopted by many Institutions. A strip of ground is prepared about 100 yards long and 12 yards wide (narrower will do), two yards from each end, strong posts are firmly fixed into the ground, about three yards or less apart. A strong galvanised wire about three-sixteenths of one inch diameter is then stretched from No. 1 post at one end, to No. 1 at the other, and so on for Nos. 3 and 4. These wires are tightened by means of ratchets till they are as nearly level as possible. A ring on each wire with about 12 inches of light chain and a handle attached, completes the equipment, except that a strong spiral spring, about 12 inches long, is placed on each end of each wire, one end of the spring being affixed to its respective post so as to form a kind of buffer. Those competing in the race all take their places at the end of the track, each holding one of the above-mentioned handles in his right hand, and at the word of command away they go. If the race is to be more than one length they turn on reaching the

end of the track, take the handle in the left hand and return. Eighty-eight yards is a convenient length for the wires, as quarter, half, or whole mile races are easily arranged thereon. The track is laid with engine ashes, coarse below and very fine on the surface, well watered and rolled in, and kept well rolled every day. As may be imagined, the pleasure of racing along at top speed without fear of coming in contact with any obstacle is delightful to those bereft of sight (*see frontispiece*) and has a most beneficial effect upon their physique, develops freedom of movement and graceful carriage. Added to this, the element of healthy rivalry which it introduces into their lives makes the running track a source of great delight to them, and is enjoyed by girls and boys alike. Another idea for outdoor recreation (and this we borrowed from Norwood) is the balancing pole. It is simply a straight round pole, 18 to 30 feet long and about 8 inches in diameter, placed horizontally, and supported at each end at a height of about 2 feet 6 inches from the ground. The object is simply to get up on the pole and to walk from end to end. A considerable amount of agility, steadiness of nerve, and balancing power is necessary in this exercise, especially when a strong wind is blowing. The competitive element is present also, and much merriment is caused by the frantic efforts of those who lose their balance *en route*. One of the chief benefits which accrues from this exercise is, to my mind, the development of self-reliance and confidence. Of course, some *ultra-grand-motherly* people object to the balancing pole as dangerous, but with healthy blind boys and girls, as with the seeing, a little spice of danger makes the game all the more enjoyable. Another thing to be said in favour of the balancing pole is that it occupies very little space, and so may be taken advantage of by those Institutions whose outdoor recreation ground is very limited in extent. Of course, we have swings, giant stride, a skittle alley, skipping-ground (granolithic), and all the other well-known and commonly used appliances for outdoor exercises.

The Music School at West Craigmillar is a notable feature of the Institution, and to this, blind young men and women of

16 or over, are admitted on payment of board only, and are trained as Violinists, Piano Tuners, Organists and Choirmasters, Pianists and Teachers of Music, and so successful has this department of the Institution been in the past, that not one single music student who has completed his course therein, and received our certificate, has failed to obtain a good appointment, and to maintain himself in comfort, and often in prosperity thereafter. In the course of the past few weeks, two of our young men of 19 and 20 years of age respectively, have been appointed after playing in open competition with seeing candidates, Organists and Choirmasters of prominent churches in Perth and Montrose; whilst, at the present time, a large number of the other churches in Scotland, England, America and the Cape are indebted to West Craigmillar Music School for their organists. Our pupils regularly take the musical examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, and it is rare for us to have a failure.

The young man above mentioned as going to Montrose, attained the honour, in January last, of carrying off a Licentiate-ship of the Royal Academy, for the Organ, an achievement which seldom falls to the lot even of sighted Musicians.

As part of the ordinary school curriculum, music is taught to all the pupils who desire to learn; whilst those showing a decided talent in that direction are encouraged to go in for it as a profession, and at 16 are drafted into the music school.

I fear I have already exceeded the space which is allowed me for this paper, and I am not nearly done: many points I have not even touched upon, but I think I have written sufficient to show that the Educational Interests of our Scottish Blind Children are thoroughly and efficiently catered for, and that Scotland has good reason to feel proud of the position she occupies in this very important branch of the great work of The Amelioration of the Condition of the Blind.

W. HY. ILLINGWORTH,
*Head Master of the Royal Blind Asylum and School,
 West Craigmillar, Edinburgh.*

JUNE, 1904.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 28.

OCTOBER 20TH, 1904.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 19th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

It is with much pleasure that we are able to announce that a conference, of which particulars as to the general arrangements at present made, are given on page 201, will be held next June, at Edinburgh. Any suggestions thereon can be sent to either of the Hon. Secretaries, and will be gladly welcomed and carefully considered by the Conference Committee.

In this number we give our readers two special articles, viz., "The Higher Education of the Blind," and "A Blind Squatter," for which we are much indebted to the Rev. J. B. Nicholson, and Mr. A. Hirst respectively. We feel sure that both articles will be read with great interest, and will act as incentives to many of the Blind.

May we express a hope that those who intend to subscribe for *The Blind* next year, will kindly send their subscriptions, 1s. 2d. for one copy, post free, each quarter, to the editor as soon as convenient, but not later than December 20th, in order that he may know how many copies have to be printed.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. It is with much regret that we have to announce the recent death of the Right Hon. James Lowther, M.P. and of Mr. W. G. Clay. Mr. Lowther was the younger son of Sir Charles Lowther, who was blind. He took much interest in everything connected with the Blind, and was a Trustee of Gardner's Trust and of Dr. Moon's Institution at Brighton for embossing books in Moon's type, and a vice-president of the Yorkshire School for the Blind. Mr. Clay, who was a nephew of Sir John Gorst, was a member of the Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association, and chairman of the Finance Committee. He was killed whilst mountaineering in Switzerland. He was a most energetic member of the Council, and was doing much good work in connection with it.

2. It is also with much regret that we have to report the death of Mr. George T. M. Barker, B.A., of Queen's College, Oxford, only child of the late Rev. T. Barker, M.A., aged 24, who was drowned, although an expert swimmer, on September 3rd, whilst bathing at Clarash Bay, Aberystwyth. He was a pupil at the Worcester Blind College and held a Gardner scholarship at Oxford, where he greatly distinguished himself by taking a first class in English Language and Literature. He was a man of remarkable attainments, and gave much promise of making his mark in the world. We venture to express our sincerest sympathy with the widowed childless mother in her sore trial and bereavement.

3. Mr. W. S. C. Palmer, formerly at Worcester Blind College and B.A. of Oxford, was ordained Deacon on September 25th by the Bishop of Llandaff in his Cathedral, and licensed to a curacy in Marshfield with Peterstone Wentloog.

4. Mr. J. F. Warden, an old student of Worcester Blind College and of Keble College, Oxford, has taken 3rd class Honours in literis humanioribus, and intends to read for Holy Orders at Ripon Theological College.

5. In the *Adelaide Observer* of July 2nd, there is a good portrait of Mr. Alfred Hollins, the well-known blind organist, and in the same paper it is stated, "Mr. Hollins has come to Australia under engagement to the City Council of Sydney to give 16 recitals upon the monster organ in the Town Hall. For these he is to receive the fine fee of £800." We entertain no doubt that Mr. Hollins' masterly and artistic playing of the organ will be thoroughly appreciated by our friends in Australia. At his first recital the audience numbering between 3000 and 4000, including Lady Northcote and Lady Hutton, was most enthusiastic.

6. Mr. F. W. Priest, a Gardner Scholar at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, to whose cantata reference has been made in a former number, received the great compliment of being invited to give an organ recital in the Town Hall, Birmingham, on July 16th. We hear that Mr. Priest acquitted himself well and was enthusiastically received by the audience. His programme contained selections from Mendelssohn, Bach, Beethoven, Merkel, Sullivan and Henry Smart.

7. Mr. C. G. Hardebeck, a former student of the Royal Normal College, to whom we have referred on previous occasions, has again gained two prizes in Feis Ceoil competitions, one being for an arrangement for an ancient Irish song, "The Parting," and the other for an original air, "The Piper of Donacloney." Mr. Hardebeck has done much for the preservation of Irish music. His prize anthem, "My God, look upon me," was performed at the Feis inaugural Concert and much appreciated.

8. The Clothworkers Company have awarded to Mr. Wilfrid A. Schofield, formerly a Gardner scholar at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, the "Fawcett Memorial Scholarship," of the value of £50 a year, tenable for four years and recently vacated by Mr. J. F. Warden. Mr. Schofield went into residence at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford on October 15th.

9. We wish to give notice to all those who are interested in applicants eligible for Hetherington's Charity that forms of application must be obtained and returned during the current month (October) and that applicants who were unsuccessful last year must fill in fresh forms of application. The forms can be obtained from the Clerk, Christ's Hospital, Newgate Street, E.C.

10. The *Western Mail* offered in January last, with the object of promoting the cause of higher education in Wales, three scholarships of the value of £300 each, tenable at any University in the United Kingdom, and payable in three annual instalments of £100 to the three candidates who secured the largest number of votes recorded on voting forms one of which was printed in every issue of the paper from January 18th to August 1st. The voting papers which were returned to the office numbered 1,305,446 and weighed over half a ton. There were 27 candidates, of whom two were blind, William Lloyd and Sidney Darling. The former, who is a student at Worcester Blind College, was second in the competition, and gained a scholarship with 235,281 votes. Darling, though unsuccessful, was 5th in the list with 146,317 votes, and is at the Yorkshire School for the Blind.

11. Applications are frequently made for back numbers of "*The Blind*," and therefore it is well to state that the editor has at present a few copies of the following numbers:—7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26. All the other numbers are out of print.

12. The Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind removed on September 19th from 114, Belsize Road to 125, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W. Owing to the increase of the library during the last few years, the Committee found it impossible to continue the work at the old premises. It is pleasing to see this library, which we well remember being started in 1882 by the energy and zeal of Miss C. C. Howden (now Mrs. Dow) and the late Miss Arnold, assisted by a substantial

grant from the Gardner Trust, extending its usefulness in providing literature for the Blind.

13. The Godfrey Ermen Memorial Home of Rest for the Blind, at Southport, is now roofed in, and it is evident that both in outward appearance and internal arrangement, it will prove very satisfactory. The position also is excellent, and there is sufficient garden to be a great pleasure to those of the inmates who cannot walk far, as they will be able to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air without effort. The intention is that this Home shall be used, as we stated in the last number, paragraph 27, not only by the Blind of Manchester and Salford, but by many others from the large Northern towns. It is nearly certain that the opening will take place in May next, but due notice will be given, so that any who are interested may be present on the occasion.

14. A Royal Commission has been appointed to consider the existing methods of dealing with idiots and epileptics, and with imbecile, feeble-minded, or defective persons not certified under the lunacy laws; and, in view of the hardship or danger resulting to such persons and the community from insufficient provision for their care, training, and control, to report as to the amendments in the law or other measures which should be adopted in the matter, due regard being had to the expense involved in any such proposals and to the best means of securing economy therein. We are pleased to note that Mr. C. S. Loch, who read a paper on the "defective" Blind at the last Conference, is one of the Commissioners, as it is a guarantee that the question of the feeble-minded Blind will not be neglected.

15. The regulations for the King's Scholarship examination for the Blind were issued last August. The examination for the admission of candidates into the Smith Training College will commence on July 4th next, and application for permission to attend the examination must be made to the Board of Education

before May 1st, 1905. Candidates who have not been pupil teachers must be over 18 years of age. The examination for teachers' certificates will take place on July 3rd.

16. The Twelfth meeting of the British Braille Committee was held on Saturday, July 23rd, at the Bible House, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. The draft of Grade 2 was carefully considered and also the principles which should serve as a basis for Grade 3. The provisional scheme has been issued, and as we understand that it has been circulated broadcast for criticism, we do not print it, presuming that all our readers will have received a copy. If not, one can be obtained on applying to the Hon. Sec. of the Committee, 146, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

17. A modification of the Stainsby-Wayne Automatic Braillewriter has been suggested by Mr. Patrick Robb, late Assistant Master of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, and now acting in the same capacity at the Bristol Blind Asylum. Mr. Robb's suggestion is that the base of the Automatic Braille-writer should have the brass portion of a Braille Frame attached to it, the paper being moved up from line to line by the rollers, &c. attached to the base of the Automatic Writer, thus greatly facilitating the process of writing Braille with a stile. Specimens have been made by Mr. Wayne, and the results are eminently satisfactory. It is anticipated that there will be a large demand for this portable Hand Frame, which costs only 5/6 nickelled and polished. This new machine is to be called "The Stainsby-Robb Hand Braillewriter"; it is very portable, and can be carried about in the breast-pocket of a coat without being noticed.

18. Miss Alice M. Haller, School for the Blind, Blenheim Walk, Leeds, is anxious to have the names of any blind persons who would like to buy the new hymn book of the Wesleyan Methodist Church printed in Braille. The book will comprise 6 or 7 volumes small size, interpointed, each containing about 240 pages. Before the work is put in hand, it is necessary to

obtain the names of a good many purchasers, and also, if possible, to form a fund in order to reduce the cost of the books.

19. Just on going to press we received some excellent specimen copies of Christmas cards for the Blind in Braille and with raised designs—groups of birds with words, price 7d post free, and at the same price a pretty spray of natural ivy with words—and also “The way they have in the Navy” Calendar for 1905 with a design of a battleship on the cover and a quotation on “Duty” for each month, price 1/3 post free, “Day by Day” 3rd series, containing a text and short reading for each day, price 9d. post free, and a Carol, “Holy Child we greet Thee” with words and music, price 5½d. post free. All these cards and papers can be obtained from the editor of the “Weekly Summary,” Shere, Surrey, and should be ordered early.

20. By the kind permission of the Earl and Countess of Londesborough an interesting meeting on behalf of the Yorkshire School for the Blind was held on August 22nd, at Londesborough Lodge, Scarborough. Unfortunately there was a small attendance owing to the bad weather, but the proceedings passed off very satisfactorily, and much interest was aroused in the work of the School, and especially in the branch Industrial Home for Women at 48, Westborough, Scarborough. This Home was founded ten years ago, and 18 blind workers are constantly employed. The Bishop of Hull presided in the large marquee erected in the grounds of Londesborough Lodge, and sketched the history of the School which was founded in 1833 in memory of William Wilberforce. Since its foundation 900 blind pupils have been maintained and educated, £17,000 have been paid in wages to blind workpeople, and £3000 given to the aged Blind. During the afternoon the pupils of the School gave a demonstration of their skill in typewriting, basketmaking, knitting, &c., and also gave a finished rendering of ‘O Hills, O Vales,’ by Mendelssohn, and other part songs. Articles made by the Blind were on sale in the tent.

21. The following weighty words are quoted by Dr. Campbell in the report of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, for 1903, "It is a difficult matter to educate the community to discriminate between competent and incompetent blind workmen. A man possessing sight may do his work badly, yet this would not prevent another seeing man from getting employment. But let a blind man attempt to tune or repair a piano, and fail, it is then impossible for another blind man, however capable, to secure work in the vicinity." Dr. Campbell's remarks as to the necessity of giving blind people physical training, equal to those who have sight, in order to overcome the prejudice against the employment of the Blind, are also most important.

22. We have to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the report of the Commission to investigate the condition of the adult Blind in Massachusetts, but we regret that want of space prevents us from referring to it at present, or to the report on the adult Blind in the State of New York. We understand that the Massachusetts Commission has been re-appointed.

23. The following extract from a letter to the Secretary of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, from the Board of Education, gives valuable information in regard to the higher education of the Blind. "It is the practice of the Board not to express approval of a proposal to continue the maintenance of a blind pupil at a recognised Institution for the Blind beyond the age of 18, till they have been informed of the proposed duration of such maintenance, and the educational value and efficiency of the instruction which will be given."

From this letter it would appear that it is the practice of the Board in cases which commend themselves to it to allow blind persons to be educated under Part II. of the Education Act 1902 until they reach the age of 18, but that a continuance of the education beyond that age is dependent on the duration, educational value and efficiency of the instruction which it is proposed to give.

INSTITUTIONS.

Birmingham. The annual meeting of the General Institution for the Blind, Carpenter Road, Edgbaston, was held on July 20th, and was presided over by Lord Cobham, when the report for the year ended March 31st was adopted. The number of blind persons directly benefited was 634, of whom 136 were resident pupils, 12 day pupils, 66 day workers, 12 teachers &c., and 371 adults. The building of the new Kindergarten School at a cost of £17,500 is nearing completion. The sum of £77 was expended in starting 25 pupils in some trade. The sale of goods amounted to £8,441, and the wages paid to 66 blind workers to £2,245. The sum of £1,106 was paid in addition to blind teachers, travellers, &c., making the aggregate amount of £3,351 paid to blind persons. The sum of £4,596 was received in legacies.

Bradford. The 43rd annual report of the Bradford Incorporated Institution for the Blind for the year 1903 was adopted at the annual meeting held on February 23rd, when the Mayor of Bradford presided. Eighty three blind workpeople have been fully employed during the year, of whom 39 are brush-makers. The wages paid to the Blind amounted to £3,594, and the sales to £12,109. The wages were supplemented by £449. The new building which was opened on February 9th cost £2,340. Classes have been commenced in brushmaking, basket-making, needlework and boot-repairing. A blind collector with distinctive uniform has been appointed. Annuities have been paid from the John Harrison fund to 25 blind people, and from other funds to several blind persons.

Cardiff. (a) The 39th annual report of the Cardiff Institution for the Blind, for the year 1903, was adopted at the annual meeting held on March 1st. The sales amounted to £1,984, being a decrease of £248, as compared with the previous year. The ships' basket trade seems to be a decaying industry. The wages paid amounted to £956 and £34 were paid in addition in bonuses. The sum of £33 15s. was paid to annuitants from the Shand Memorial Aid Fund. Several prizes at the exhibition of the Welsh Industries Association held in

Bristol, were carried off by blind workmen of the Institution.

(b) The annual meeting of the Cardiff Guild of Social Workers among the Blind was held on April 19th, when the sixth annual report for the year ended February 29th, was adopted. The object of the Guild is to improve the general conditions of the Blind of Cardiff and District, by encouraging Home Work, and by assisting them to earn a livelihood, etc. A blind visitor was appointed in July last year. The names on the register exceed 100. The sale of newspapers has been found a remunerative employment for several of the members.

Leicester. The 45th annual report for the year 1903, of the Leicester Association for promoting the general welfare of the Blind, 50, Granby Street, was presented at the annual meeting held on June 20th, when the Mayor of Leicester presided. The blind workers—four more being employed than last year—received £785, including £136, given in addition to their actual earnings. Constant employment was provided for 32 blind persons (17 men and 15 women). The sales amounted to £3,316, and the legacies to £371. A sighted Bible woman is employed to visit the Blind in the town and country, the number on the register being 202. There is a Cottage Home for aged and helpless blind women. Small sums have been paid weekly to specially needy cases.

York. The 66th annual report of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, for the year 1903, was presented at the annual meeting held on March 30th, when the Earl Feversham presided. There were 69 pupils in the School on December 31st, 1903, and 23 out-workers, and 8 out-pupils. The sales amounted to £4,066 and £55 were expended in assisting former pupils. The wages, salaries and supplements paid to the Blind for work done, amounted to £1,212 and £207 were paid in special grants to the aged and other Blind. There is a Home for blind women at Scarborough, and workshops have been established at Middlesborough, Whitby, Huddersfield and Wakefield. £1,271 were received in legacies. Some interesting statistics, from the census of 1901, respecting the Blind in England and Wales, have been tabulated by the superintendent in his report to the Managing Committee.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

When the Editor of *The Blind* invited me to contribute a paper on this important subject, I was glad that he added the limitation "with special reference to the College at Worcester." For apart from my lack of any intimate knowledge as to what work may be doing in this direction at other Institutions for the Blind, and such as would qualify me to discuss the subject more generally, I feel that probably a more useful purpose may be served by an account of our work and methods at Worcester.

I.

The Worcester "College for the Higher Education of the Blind," to which the old name of the "College for the Blind Sons of Gentlemen" was officially changed some eighteen months ago, was founded in 1866 as a philanthropic venture by the late Rev. R. S. Blair, who was then an Assistant Master at the King's School, Worcester. The idea of doing so was doubtless suggested to Mr. Blair by the fact that amongst his pupils at that school he had a blind boy, who is now the distinguished Vicar of Brafferton; while he was also strongly encouraged in the course he took by the late Rev. W. Taylor who, so far back as 1858, had publicly urged the establishment of such a College.

It was soon found that the College supplied a felt want, and from the date of its foundation down to the present it has educated a long list of pupils, many of whom have distinguished themselves at one or other of the Universities, and proved in after-life useful men in their generation.

In 1869, Mr. Blair converted the Blind College into a Proprietary Institution with the idea of obtaining public support for his work, but in this condition it languished for over two years and eventually the company was wound up.

In 1872 the College again became a Private School under the Principalship of the late Rev. S. S. Forster. This character it retained for seventeen years, until in 1889 through the exertion of Mr. Forster a small endowment was secured, a Trust Deed drawn up much on the lines of other Public Schools, and a body of Trustees and Governors appointed.

It may not be out of place to pay a passing tribute to the devoted work of Mr. Forster. The Worcester Blind College, humanly speaking, owes its existence to him ; and any success which may have attended the effort to impart a higher education to the Blind is due in no small degree to the unselfish devotion with which he gave the last nineteen years of his life to the work.

II.

When first founded the College was housed in an interesting old building in Worcester, still known as the Commandery. The Commandery is the ancient hospital of St. Wulstan, and by reason of its historical associations is a building dear to antiquarians.* Though a commodious and pleasant residence it is situated in a low-lying and not too healthy a quarter of the city and was unsuitable for a school. Nevertheless, for twenty years the College was carried on there, and so far as numbers are concerned it reached a point to which it has never attained since. Twice Mr. Forster added classrooms, and later he had to rent another house for the accommodation of pupils ; but at length, in 1889, he decided to move the school out of Worcester altogether, having secured the lease of an excellent building some three miles from the city. Thenceforward for fifteen years the College remained at Powyke.

Once again has it been moved. In 1902, chiefly owing to the liberality of the late Miss Warrington, of Malvern Wells, we were enabled to take up our residence in a building specially erected for our work, and thus at last the school has found a permanent home.

Our " New Building " together with its equipment and the laying out of the grounds cost over £10,000. Towards this, Miss Warrington contributed the princely sum of £8,000 in addition to the cost of the site. The remainder has been partly made up by contributions, including £500 given by the Gardner Trustees with their accustomed generosity.

The situation of the College is a very fine one, lying to the S.E. of Worcester, about a mile and three quarters from the

*The history of the Commandery has been written by the Rev. F. T. Marsh, a former pupil of the Blind College.

centre of the city, and a little over 200 feet above the sea-level. To the West and South the land falls away rapidly, giving a magnificent view of the Severn Valley with the Malvern Hills and district on beyond. The grounds, which comprise four acres, contain an excellent playground, including a levelled cricket pitch.

The building can comfortably accommodate some twenty students. It is in the form of a long two storied rectangle, with short projections at each end. The school accommodation comprises an excellent dining hall, two good sized class rooms, a library, which is also used as a class room, a music room, Assistant Master's Common room, small extra room, cloak room, lavatory for pupils, and another for Masters. These are all on the ground floor. On the first floor are two splendid dormitories, with bedrooms for Masters opening off them, a third Master's bedroom, bath rooms for Masters and students, sick room and linen room. The lavatories are the admiration of all who see them, with their terrazo floors, white tiled walls, and Doulton fittings, while the sanitary appliances are thoroughly up-to-date and are probably unsurpassed by any school in England. The buildings are not yet complete. We hope that in time other wealthy philanthropists will imitate Miss Warrington's generosity and provide us with Chapel, Gymnasium, Swimming bath, and a large Hall which could be used for Speech Day gatherings and as a Library proper.

III.

Pupils join the Blind College at all ages from eight to twenty or even at a more advanced age. There is a case on record of a man of forty becoming a pupil. Sometimes they come straight from home, sometimes from other schools either for the blind or seeing; some have already received an education suited to their years, others—even at times boys of fourteen to sixteen—know little or nothing and have practically to commence from the beginning.

Consequently it is in practice impossible to lay down a fixed syllabus which all pupils must work through. Nearly every case has to be considered singly and the work mapped out

accordingly. Another consequence is great difficulty in classification. While an ordinary form in an ordinary Public School usually consists of more than our total number of pupils, the latter by reason of their diversity in age and attainments have to be taught in groups often containing only two or three students.

Nevertheless, certain fundamental principles govern the methods of our work. Latin and Arithmetic we look upon as the basis of education here. We do not wait until a boy can read Braille, but we teach him Latin—orally, if necessary, from the first day he enters school; and as soon as ever he can spell out a few words in Braille a Latin Grammar is put into his hands. I adopted this course some years ago soon after I first took up the work here. I remember that I found one little boy in the School who was at the time “learning” Braille, and who did little else for quite a year except some elementary Arithmetic. That was a mistake; and the next pupil who came to us without a prior knowledge of Braille had, like all similar boys who have followed him, to learn it through the medium of Latin chiefly.

Arithmetic we regard as the complement of Latin, and so of course the subject is taken up from the commencement of school life. It must not be thought that other usual subjects of education are wholly relegated to a later period. Divinity, English Grammar, History, Geography—we try to instruct the *youngest* boys in these: but we lay the most emphasis and spend most time upon Latin and Arithmetic.

The next subject a boy takes up is French. If his Braille is fluent he can do so at once when he starts Latin, but otherwise we find by experience that it is wiser for him to wait a term or two, according to his natural ability, before adding that language to his studies.

How rapidly a boy makes progress—in Latin, for instance—is chiefly a question of his own ability and willingness to work. Some boys are able to start Cæsar in a year, others will require double that time and more. A blind boy requires a much deeper grounding in the grammar of a foreign language before commencing to read an author than a seeing boy does; it is much

easier for the latter to recognise words, distinguish Parts of Speech, and so on; while the very "look" of words and sentences is often a great help to the general sense of a passage. In all this the blind student is at a disadvantage.

Again, the Blind have no Latin or French Dictionaries, no Greek Lexicon. The nearest approach to anything of the kind in our library is a concise Lexicon of the Greek Testament, and we also have short vocabularies to a few books in the three languages.

These difficulties can be partially compensated for by increased knowledge of grammar, and consequently we aim at giving our pupils a good grounding in Accidence, at any rate, before starting translation.

When a boy has begun Cæsar, or is drawing near to that stage, we add Greek to his subjects. Greek is taught by the help of Braille, certain characters of which are adapted to the representation of those letters and signs in which the language differs from English. For example, the "rough breathing" is represented by the English "h," the "smooth breathing" being understood. The use of raised "Greek" type has sometimes been advocated in place of Braille, and at one time Greek writings were so printed in Worcester. But, apart from the fact that the type so used has become worn out, there is no practical advantage to be gained by using raised Greek in preference to Braille, while the latter certainly makes Greek easier for the average blind student.

In the study of the Classics we aim at introducing our pupils to as wide a range of authors as possible. As soon as a boy has read one book of Cæsar he goes on to Cicero. When he has worked through *e.g.* the De Senectute he reads a book of Virgil and so on. Similarly in Greek. This system tends to give a wider range of vocabulary than if larger portions of fewer authors were studied, and also gives a better general idea of the genius of the Classical languages.

Our goal in French is to teach a boy to read that language with comparative ease. And as a general rule those who complete their school course have little difficulty, except so far as

vocabulary is concerned, in making out the sense of an average piece of French.

Mathematics, from the nature of the case, are a very difficult study for blind boys, and they are likely, it would seem, to become increasingly so. Even Arithmetic, when the elementary stages have been passed, is more difficult for a blind than a seeing boy. A blind boy *can* master arithmetic as thoroughly as any boy, but when he comes to deal with more complicated problems such as those in connection with compound interest, railway trains, growing grass, &c., or with such theories as "scales of notation" he is cruelly handicapped by want of pen and paper.

After they have made some fair progress in arithmetic, our pupils enter upon Geometry, and later on Algebra. All are supposed to learn something of these branches of Mathematics. But how far the average blind boy can go in such subjects is problematical. I have, in my own experience, only met with one who could really be called a Mathematician, and he was able to enter upon the Calculus before going to Cambridge.

If blind boys succeed in digesting three books of Euclid and in working up to Quadratics, we have to be satisfied as a general rule.

But in the future even this standard will be more difficult of attainment, at any rate, for examination purposes. "Cut and dry Euclid" will no longer hold good as geometry; original thinking will take its place; while the application of "graphs" to Algebra will, so far, make that subject almost impossible to the Blind. I do not mean that we shall be wholly unable to teach them Geometry and Algebra; but just as geography is only half geography for a blind boy, simply because he cannot draw maps, so mathematics lose half their reality for a similar reason.

Such subjects as Divinity—including Greek Testament for those who have begun Greek Translation—English Language and Literature, History and Geography find their due place in our Curriculum; while Music, it need hardly be said, holds an important position. Every boy, who can learn, is taught the

Piano, and all must join the school singing class. Some, from time to time, learn the organ, violin or 'Cello.

One subject we do not touch—Science. The question of expense puts it out of our reach. But in any case, I seriously doubt whether science would prove an educational factor of any real value if it were taught purely theoretically, or if the experimental side of it were to remain in the hands of the teacher alone. The *facts* of science are as interesting to the Blind as to the seeing, but they can gather these for themselves; their time in school can be much better spent.

So far I have given a cursory outline of the education pursued by the majority of our pupils: those who enter at various ages up to 14 or so, and go through a regular school course. The case of those who join at a more advanced age is somewhat different. Usually they come to be coached for some special examination, and that factor at once determines the course of their studies.

Before leaving this part of my subject, I should like to put in a plea for the introduction of the study of Latin into every school for the Blind. Many years' experience in teaching boys of all ages and classes, both sighted and blind, leaves no doubt in my own mind that Latin is the most useful instrument for the discipline and development of youthful intellects, and I should like to see it taught to all boys and girls in elementary schools as well as secondary. Why should not teachers of the Blind be pioneers in such a direction? The Blind, as such, ought to be given the very best education that is possible; while any system of instruction from which Latin is absent, is a defective one. I do not urge the study of Latin beyond the age of 15 or 16 in every case: that would depend upon the student's natural aptitude: but I am quite sure that if every child could work at this language systematically for, say, four years, there would be immense growth in the intellectual strength of the nation.

Latin need not oust arithmetic or history or other "useful" subjects; on the contrary the brain which is partly nurtured on the first will acquire all the sounder a grip of the others.

The question of expense may indeed prove an insurmount-

able barrier in some blind schools, but otherwise there is no reason in the nature of things why every blind boy and girl of average ability should not study this great language to their incalculable profit. The case is different where one has to deal with children of weak intellect, though I am not disposed to grant too much in this direction. I have myself succeeded in teaching at least one blind boy of certainly "deficient" intellect to read "Cæsar," and I remember how elated I was once in days long gone by, when I was only "learning to teach," on getting a little semi-idiotic boy to understand the *principle* underlying the process of subtraction.

IV.

The time occupied in a blind boy's education is necessarily much longer than for sighted boys. The late Mr. Forster, to whom I have already referred, used to say that twice as much time was required. I can confirm this from my own experience at any rate for boys up to the age of 16. In the majority of cases it is quite certain that for the first few years of his educational life, whether at home or at school, a blind boy will take two years to learn what his sighted fellow ought to master in one.

A natural consequence is that a blind boy's education is very expensive. This probably holds good in all blind schools, but is intensified in the case of Worcester, because the number of students seeking such an education as we give is very limited and therefore the heavy expenses necessarily incurred have to be shared by only a few.

Our endowment being but a small one—we are something like the poorest blind institution in England—we have to fix our fees at the somewhat high figure of £80 per annum for boys under 16, and £100 for those over that age in order to make the College self-supporting. Experience, however, shows that there are very few blind boys whose parents or friends can afford to spend so much on their education, and had we not Scholarships and such like to fall back upon, our work could hardly be carried on. Foremost among our benefactors in this direction are the Gardner Trustees. It is not too much to say that they are the

backbone of the College. And their help is all the more valuable inasmuch as our School Scholarships which once amounted to £80 per annum have sunk to £20, owing to decrease in value of investments. The Masters and boys of Uppingham School have with great generosity for years maintained an Exhibition here of £30 per annum : and lately the Worcestershire County Council have made an annual grant to the College of a similar amount. Our Scholarships are only given to those who need assistance in order to avail themselves of an education here.

V.

One question at once arises. Is it worth while to confer an advanced education upon a comparatively small number of the Blind in view of the length of time it requires and its great expense ? The answer will be a positive one, whether as regards the success attained as measured by examination results, or as regards the ability thereby acquired by the Blind to support themselves in after life. Since the College was founded in 1866 upwards of 110 pupils have passed through it, nearly 50 of whom have graduated at one or other of the Universities. Among the distinctions obtained are at least one Fellowship ; twenty-eight Scholarships (exclusive of the Gardner University Scholarships), Exhibitions and Prizes ; twenty-six Honour Degrees in either Classics, Mathematics, History, Law, English Literature, or Theology ; one D.D., one B.D., one D.C.L., one Mus. Bac., one F.R.C.O.

Two facts are specially worth noting. One is that on three occasions a pupil from here has come out " Senior Optime " in the Mathematical Tripos at Cambridge : the other, that all our pupils who have gone to the University during the last eight years have graduated with Honours.

More than half of those who have graduated are now Ministers of Religion, while many more (including some who did not go to any University) are engaged with considerable success in the scholastic, legal and musical professions, as well as in business life.

To some extent these figures are only approximate, since a

complete record of the pupils attending the Blind College from the start has not been kept.

They are, however, sufficient to answer the question which I have suggested above.

But there is a higher view to take than that of mere utility. The Blind, by reason of their affliction, have a claim on the sighted which cannot be satisfied. We owe them at least the best we have to give; and the best we can give is education, by which I mean trained and developed powers of thought, as well as food that will satisfy the demands of the intellect.

Much success can undoubtedly be attained if the object kept in view is to make the Blind self-supporting and useful members of the human family.

But I am quite sure that a far greater measure of success in these directions awaits the work whose first and chiefest aim is to compensate the Blind, so far as may be possible, for their deprivation of sight by bestowing on them the greatest boon that men have to bestow, the boon of a sound and liberal education.

JAFFRAY B. NICHOLSON,

*Head Master of the College for the Higher Education
of the Blind, Worcester.*

SEPTEMBER 20th, 1904.

A BLIND SQUATTER.

"Yet I argue not
Against Heaven's hand or will, nor bate a jot
Of heart or hope, but still bear up and steer
Right onward."

Milton:

When, thirty years ago and more, a damp fell about my path, I was living in a pleasant country house near my native town. It was about two miles from my place of business. A friend who lived within a hundred yards of my gates, and whom I shall ever remember with gratitude and affection, offered to lend me his guiding arm, morning and evening, to and from my

office. When wet I called for him in my brougham, but when fine we preferred to walk. For more than a decade this invaluable service was rendered me. My friend had travelled and read much, and like Evander with Aeneas "varioque viam sermone levabat," he lightened our walks with various and pleasant talks. I often think of my friend and his anecdotes, and circumstances lately recalled to my memory one about a Dublin tradesman whose finances were in a most ricketty condition, but whose optimism about them was invincible. Having accepted a bill for a considerable amount one day, he was heard to exclaim, "there, thank goodness, that is done with," apparently forgetting that in six months and three days his promise to pay would have to be redeemed by performance.

Last April, I promised my friend, the Editor of *The Blind*, that I would write for the October number a sketch of a very remarkable man, Mr. John Melrose, of Ulooloo and Booboorowie, South Australia. At that time my physical condition, like the Dublin merchant's financial one, made my promise to write almost as reckless as his to pay; but still, I hoped that a few days' application would complete the work without much difficulty. Day after day, however, went by and week after week, and every day and very week brought increase of work for the Blind, with increased feebleness of health, and although I had thought much about my promised article not a word was committed to paper. Burns tells us:—

"That nae man can tether time or tide;
The hour approaches Tam maun ride."

In like manner the hour does not merely approach but has arrived when I must write, and so to my task. It is not an easy one, for I have to tell about a man whom I have neither seen nor heard, but about whom I seem to know much. It was through the late Dr. J. Harris Browne—one of the most distinguished men Australia has produced—that I was introduced to the subject of this paper. Before leaving Australia, a few years ago, Dr. Browne sold a large and valuable freehold to Mr. Melrose and another well-known sheep farmer, named Dutton. Mr.

Melrose, who had an estate less than twenty miles away, was to be the managing partner. It was not long after that he, like Samson, became

“Dark, dark, dark, irrecoverably dark.”

At this time I was in constant correspondence with Dr. Browne, and he was so much interested with my type-written letters that he asked for particulars about my machine (a Williams'), which I suppose is nearly as good as ever, after being worked very hard for about nine years. Dr. Browne sent my letter to Mr. Melrose, and the latter asked me to send him a machine exactly like mine. This I gladly did, and within a fortnight after receiving it Mr. Melrose wrote me, by its aid, a long letter expressing his delight, and stating that he seemed to be in a new world, as his new possession gave him such a feeling of independence. Mr. Melrose is surrounded by affectionate relatives, and one of these, a brother, had invented for his use an ingenious writing frame, and other appliances, but the type-writer swept all these, with one exception, into limbo, and Mr. Melrose now conducts all his own business and private correspondence with the utmost ease. The exception was a frame with which Mr. Melrose is able to draw his own cheques, which must necessarily be very numerous in managing two such important properties. I had some difficulty in persuading Mr. Melrose to allow me to furnish this sketch to the readers of *The Blind*, but when I told him that Dr. T. R. Armitage—the greatest blind man I had ever known—often expressed the opinion that nothing puts more life and mettle into persons overtaken with blindness than an account of one who had met the affliction with fortitude, and a determination never to submit or yield, he wrote me as follows:—

“I am not keen on seeing my name in print, but if the account of what I do will be the means of helping any one to peg along cheerfully you are welcome to publish anything you wish. I was 41 years of age when I lost my sight, just two-and-a-half years ago. I was six months in the hospital, so that it is just two years since I left that Institution, and it was then that I determined to learn how to read and write Braille. I got a

primer, style, frame and paper, and with this stock-in-trade and the assistance of my nurse (who did not know Braille from a nutmeg-grater), I soon learned to read and write it; later I got a book of contractions, and have worried the thing out for myself. I have now a Braille type-writer (Hall), which I find most useful for making business notes and memoranda. I conduct my business just the same as I did before I lost my sight, and the fact that my partner in North Booboorowie sees no reason for making any alteration proves that I do as well as some who have their sight. I may add that I do not think there is anything wonderful in what I do."

More than 40 years ago I passed three years in South Australia, and formed many valuable friendships. With many of these friends I have kept up a correspondence, and from all of them, and especially from those who know Mr. Melrose personally, I have received accounts expressing the greatest admiration at the brave manner in which he has met his misfortune. I am indebted to a close friend of Mr. Melrose for the following details:—

"Anything I say about Mr. Melrose is, I must premise, open to the criticism that it is written with a strong bias in his favour, which I certainly have. I have known him since we were boys together (he is a year or two my junior), and for a good many years we have been intimate friends. He is the son of the late George Melrose, who came to Australia some 60 years ago, and early in that period settled in the Mt. Pleasant district some 35 or 40 miles north-east of Adelaide, and there accumulated a large landed estate, which with other property at his death in 1890 he left equally between his five sons and three daughters. To their credit be it said, they divided this up amongst themselves without any outside advice or assistance, and without even the semblance of disagreement. To John Melrose, commonly known as 'Jack,' fell Ulooloo. This property is just within what is known as Goyder's line of rainfall, and lies about 25 miles north of the Burra. After leaving school John Melrose went to Franklin Harbour sheep station, one of his father's properties, and was there for several years; then he

came on to Ulooloo, which he managed during his father's lifetime, and he has resided there ever since. In 1897 he joined Mr. Henry Dutton of Anlaby in the purchase of North Booboorowie (a splendid freehold property of more than 33,000 acres, with stock, &c., being the northern half of the old Booboorowie station), for £98,000, and the partnership has been a very successful one. Fortunately Melrose did not lose his sight until he had become thoroughly acquainted with North Booboorowie, and since his blindness he has continued to manage his own affairs and the Booboorowie station with, I think I may say, the greatest ability, confidence and success. He is a bluff, outspoken man, the soul of straightforwardness, who before his trouble was highly respected, and since his affliction that respect has been increased by the pluck and bravery with which he has met his misfortune. He has always been a shrewd business man, and in his sighted days was, perhaps, somewhat hasty in his temper, and had a rather imperious manner, but trouble has mellowed him, and now his judgment is, in my opinion, sounder than ever, and taking him all round, he is a better and abler man than before he lost his sight."

Horace tells us that the man who, far removed from business cultivates his paternal acres, free from usury, leads a happy life, To this extent Mr. Melrose leads an enviable life, for he is what Milton said his friend Lawrence was, "of virtuous father virtuous son." His business is not merely to cultivate his paternal acres, but to manage this splendid Booboorowie property. Booboorowie lies about 17 miles from Ulooloo, and I fancy from some of his letters that it does not take Mr. Melrose long to drive from one place to the other, but in order to save time he has the two connected with a telephone. Let nobody suppose that his task is an easy one. To conduct great pastoral properties such as these with success requires both knowledge and energy. When I knew Booboorowie 40 years ago the sheep under the skilful management of the Browne family were supposed to have reached perfection. At that time each grown sheep yielded annually about five pounds of wool, but before the property came into the possession of Mr. Melrose and his partner, the

Brownes, by careful breeding from imported and other stock purchased at great expense, brought up the average annual weight of each fleece to about ten pounds, and in this way doubled the wool-revenue. Formerly the fleece of each sheep on this and the neighbouring stations, which are amongst the very best in Australia, was worth about four shillings, but now it is worth about double that amount, and what this means can easily be reckoned when it is remembered that these properties carry from 30,000 to about 100,000 sheep each. Mr. Melrose has a great command of English, and his letters are written in a racy and vigorous style, which makes the reading of them most entertaining and instructive. Sometimes he contributes an article, under a nom-de-plume, to the live-stock journals, and one which I have read shows that he has a thorough knowledge of sheep. Here it may be mentioned that besides keeping his merino sheep up to the highest pitch of excellence, Mr. Melrose has imported a small stud of horned Dorsets, the "handsome Dorsets," as Cobbett called them, with which he is experimenting, in order to produce the best fat lambs for the English market. A few months since, a letter from Mr. Melrose appeared in *The Speaker* on a subject of great importance to Australia at the present time. It attracted much attention, for the writer showed a thorough knowledge of his subject. Boswell tells us that "Dr. Johnson did not strut or stand on tip-toe; he only did not stoop." Now those who admire Australians most, and I am one of these admirers, must acknowledge that whilst they certainly do not stoop, they can on occasion do a little bit of strutting and standing on tiptoe. But there is not a trace of these amiable weaknesses in Mr. Melrose. Whilst proud of the fact that he is an Australian bred and born, and expressing the hope that he may live and die in the great island continent, he does not indulge in foolish boasting about the future of his country, but is content to increase its main source of wealth and prosperity by improving its magnificent breed of merino sheep.

To learn all these particulars about Mr. Melrose's life has been to me a very exhilarating experience. It would not be proper to mention here his family and social life. Nobody

would imagine from his letters that they were written by a blind man. In the conduct of his business Mr. Melrose goes here, there and everywhere, attending markets and sales of property and stock. To my surprise he wrote me a description of a visit he had paid to the great sheep show held at Sydney last year, which necessitated a journey by rail of considerably more than two thousand miles there and back. It is not surprising that he has won the admiration of all who come in contact with him.

In the later sixties and early seventies, I was a regular visitor at the House of Commons. One of its most interesting members at that time was the late Henry Fawcett. His commanding figure and cheery voice made a deep impression on me, and when it became my turn to be cut off from the cheerful ways of men, it was an inspiration to remember his manly intrepid bearing. His biographer, Leslie Stephen, tells us that within ten minutes of the occurrence of the shooting accident which deprived him of sight, he had made up his mind to stick to his pursuits as much as possible. It is evident that a similar determination was made by the subject of this sketch.

I have placed at the head of this paper an extract from a sonnet written by Milton when he had been blind for three years. The sonnet from which it is taken should be learned by heart by all the Blind both young and old. Now, however, that I am old, feeble and day-wearied, I turn to another sonnet of this greatest of all blind men, and am cheered and comforted with the assurance

“ who best
Bear His mild yoke, they serve Him best ;”

and still more by the last line of this fine poem—

“ They also serve who only stand and wait.”

Isaiah commands those who are of a fearful heart, to be strong and fear not, and then tells of a time when the eyes of the Blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped, and the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing. Promises like these should help those of us who are afflicted to bear our trouble with fortitude and patience. We are told sometimes that we ought to die in harness, but when

I was in Australia long ago, that man was considered the wise traveller who, however hot and dusty the day had been, arrived cool towards sunset at the appointed place of rest and dismounted quietly; and so at the end of life's journey it is also desirable to come in cool and dismount quietly.

In conclusion, I hope that this imperfect and slight sketch of a strong and intrepid man will cheer and encourage many of our fellows in affliction to lead, as far as possible, active lives.

Since writing the foregoing I have had a letter read to me, written by a friend of Mr. Melrose. It states that during a recent visit to Adelaide Mr. Melrose heard that a blind teacher at the Institution was mortally ill. The man died, and Mr. Melrose and another friend started a fund for the benefit of the widow and children. When the mail left, it already amounted to more than £500. *O si sic omnes!*

ALFRED HIRST.

THE CONFERENCE OF 1905.

A meeting of the Organising Committee was held by kind permission, at the office of the British and Foreign Bible Society on July 23rd, when Dr. Campbell, and Messrs. Illingworth, Pine, Stainsby, Tate, and Wilson were present.

Mr. Henry J. Wilson was unanimously voted to the Chair on the motion of Dr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Illingworth.

Mr. Pine having reported on the replies he had received to his letter of June 25th, addressed to the Secretaries of various Institutions, the following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

1. That a Conference be held in 1905.
2. That it be held in Edinburgh.
3. That the time of the Conference be the week after Whitsuntide, viz., the week commencing June 19th.

Mr. Henry J. Wilson was elected the Chairman of the Conference Committee, and Mr. Illingworth and Mr. Pine were elected joint Secretaries.

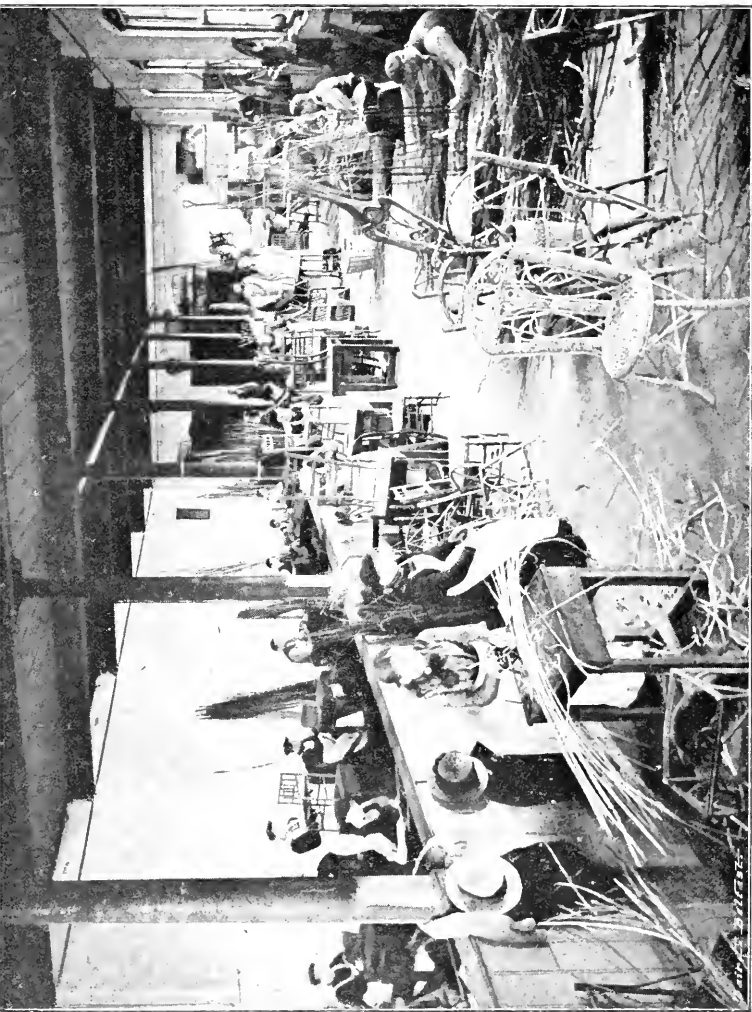
The formation of a Local Committee was left in the hands of Mr. Illingworth.

The following Draft Scheme was provisionally adopted:—

1. That the Conference be of four days' duration commencing on Tuesday. The first two days and the fourth day, Friday, to be occupied with papers and discussion in morning and afternoon Sessions.
2. That on Thursday a visit be paid to the Institution and Workshops at Glasgow.
3. That on the Saturday morning following the Conference a visit be paid to the Institution and Workshops at Dundee by all those able to go.
4. That an Exhibition be held, comprising all kinds of Educational appliances and apparatus and manufactures by the Blind.

In regard to the *modus operandi* of the Conference, the feeling of the Committee was that instead of individual persons writing papers for discussion, a better plan would be for the Committee to decide upon a list of subjects to be dealt with by the Conference, and that these should be each allotted to various persons who would be invited to take charge of them. Each person would then gather opinions and obtain all information on the subject which would be collaborated and be brought up to the Conference in the form of a Report.

The following subjects for discussion have been provisionally decided on:—(1) The 'defective' Blind, (2) British Braille, (3) Secondary Education, (4) Central Bureau and National Register, (5) Board of Guardians and their relation to the Blind, (6) Better employment of the Blind and (7) Primary Education. We hope to give in our next number the full and exact titles of the various subjects to be discussed, and also the names of those to whom the papers on the various questions will be entrusted, and further particulars of the arrangements, which will be made at a meeting summoned for October 15th.



WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND, BELFAST.— ONE OF THREE LARGE BASKET ROOMS.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 29.

JANUARY 20TH, 1905.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 18th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

The special article in this number is entitled "The Blind in Ireland," and we believe that it will be found interesting and useful. It is written at our special request by Mr. J. H. Hewitt, the manager of the Workshops for the Blind in Belfast, and gives a succinct account of what is being done in Ireland to ameliorate the condition of the Blind.

The arrangements for the International Conference to be held at Edinburgh in June are well advanced, and preliminary notices have been issued to every known institution, society, and agency for the Blind in the world—about 300 in all. We trust that every institution and society in the United Kingdom may be represented, and that the exhibition may embrace samples of every kind of work in which the Blind can be employed, as well as various technical appliances and apparatus. We hope, also, that those of our readers, who wish to express their views on any of the subjects to be discussed, will communicate direct with those who have charge of the several papers (*v.* page 227).

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of Sir Frederic A. Burrows, Bart., who was a member of the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind. That he took much interest in the Blind and was a valued colleague is shown in the following extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of Gardner's Trust, held on December 6th, which we are permitted to print. "The Committee have received with much regret the announcement of the decease of their colleague Sir Frederic Abernethy Burrows, Bart. He had served on the Committee for a period of seven years, and brought to their discussions a sound judgment, an earnestness, and a knowledge of the wants and requirements of the poorer classes, which made him a valuable coadjutor in their work. The Committee desire that this expression of their estimate of his character and services should be formally entered on the minutes, and that a copy be forwarded to Lady Burrows."

2. The Rev. John Swinnerton has just been licensed to the curacy of St. Bride's Minor, near Bridgend, Glamorganshire.

3. The Rev. G. C. Pope has resigned his locum tenency at Greenwich, in order to take up a curacy at Hyde in Cheshire.

4. Mr. W. Wolstenholme has been appointed organist at All Saints' Church, Norfolk Square, London.

5. Mr. G. F. Whittleton, of Wadham College, Oxford, has passed moderations.

6. Mr. W. A. Schofield, of St. Edmund Hall, and Mr. A. H. Powell, of St. John's College, Oxford, have passed Responsions, and also Mr. Lloyd, to whom we referred in our last number (par. 10), who intends to enter Keble College in October next.

7. Mr. H. C. Souter, A.R.C.O., the blind teacher of music at the West of England Institution for the Blind, Exeter, has passed the intermediate examination for the degree of Mus. Bac. at Durham University.

8. Mr. Frederick Perrin, who was a Gardner scholar at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, has been appointed correspondence clerk at Messrs. Riley's pianoforte warehouse, Constitution Hill, Birmingham, and took up his duties on October 3rd. Mr. Perrin is a most reliable typist and stenographer, and we heartily congratulate him on his appointment. We hear he is giving complete satisfaction in his work. Will not other houses of business follow the excellent example of Messrs. Riley and engage blind clerks?

9. Mr. Hill Cook, who made his first appearance as a bass soloist last June at the Bechstein Hall, London, is the youngest son of the late Rev. David Cook, a Scotch Presbyterian minister, and was educated at the Edinburgh Blind Asylum. He spent nearly three years in teaching in a school for the Blind in South China. He became blind when quite a lad, and we regret to say that his mother also became blind about four years ago.

10. It is with much pleasure that we have to announce the appointment on November 2nd of Mr. W. H. Illingworth, late headmaster of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, to be superintendent of Henshaw's Blind Asylum. On November 28th an appreciative record of his 20 years services as headmaster, and the loss sustained by the Institution in his departure were entered on the Directors' Minutes. Mr. Illingworth entered on his new duties last month, and we wish him all success in his fresh sphere of work. The fact that at the meeting of the Board of Governors at which Mr. Illingworth was elected, an announcement was made of a gift of £10,000 to the asylum from the trustees of the late Mr. James Holden is a good augury, we hope, for his successful administration in the responsible post to which he has been appointed.

11. The Education Committee of the Staffordshire County Council have granted Miss Cissie Till, an ex-pupil of the Blind and Deaf School at Stoke-on-Trent, a scholarship of the value of £25 a year to enable her to go to the Royal Normal College for the Blind, where she has gained a Gardner scholarship. The renewal of the scholarship is conditional on the receipt of satisfactory reports from the College authorities.

12. On December 9th a memorial tablet erected to the late Mr. A. Buckle, by his widow, in the music room of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, was unveiled by the Dean of York. The inscription is as follows:—

“ This tablet records the memory of Anthony Buckle, B.A., who after 30 years devoted to the duties of Superintendent of this Institution, was called to his rest on the Sunday in Ascensiontide, 27th May, 1900. He strengthened and widened the foundation of the Wilberforce Memorial. The managers would echo his words regarding it.

Addressed to the Son of Man :

‘ So, our imperfect deeds by Thee made bright,
We all may by Thy loving hand be led

To that blest home of Thine which knows no night.’

From No. XVIII. of his Yorkshire Sonnets and Etchings.

Erected by his widow Catherine Buckle, 1904.”

The Tablet is of oak and the inscription is cut in high relief. The Dean spoke in high terms of Mr. Buckle's great accomplishments, and read extracts from his literary works to show how their truth and beauty were reflections of his life and character. The blind choir of the school sang at the beginning and at the end of the proceedings.

13. The Committee of Gardner's Trust have presented to the Institute for Massage by the Blind, 64, Lancaster Gate, London, W., Galvanic and Faradic batteries for the free use of blind masseurs and masseuses who hold certificates of proficiency.

14. A service was held at St. Peter's Collegiate Church,

Wolverhampton, on November 16th, when the offertory collection was devoted to the funds of the Wolverhampton Society for the Blind. The lesson was read by a blind man, the music portions of the service were rendered by the choir from the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Albert Tansey, of Market Rasen, who is also blind. Mr. Priest presided at the organ, and the anthem was from his cantata "The Centurion's Servant."

15. In the section devoted to the Blind in the Palace of Education at the St. Louis Exhibition, the gold medal has been awarded to the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society and Free Circulating Library for the Blind, Philadelphia, for an exhibit of books and specimens of reading in 419 languages embossed in Moon's type, as well as maps and pictures in relief. We congratulate Dr. Robert C. Moon—brother of the inventor—who is secretary of the society, on this high honour.

16. In consequence of paragraph No. 11 in our last number, several back numbers of *The Blind* have been applied for, and there remain no more copies of Nos. 11, 19, 24, and 26.

17. The committee of the Wakefield Societies for the Blind are to be congratulated on opening on November 22nd new workshops and a club room for the Blind at 19, Queen Street, Wakefield. The mayor and mayoress received the visitors, and the building was dedicated to the use of the Blind by the Ven. Archdeacon Donne, in the unavoidable absence of the Bishop of Wakefield. A sale of work—all made by the Blind—was opened by Lady Catherine Milnes Gaskell in a kind sympathetic speech. Mr. Munby, of York, and Miss I. M. Heywood, of Manchester, also spoke. Hearty congratulations, in which we wish to join, were given to Miss Edith Wright. Chiefly owing to her constant exertions and untiring energy, the work for the Blind has now been brought under one roof in spacious and commodious premises. There are workshops for men and also for women, a club room, and a library. The tea given annually to the Blind by Miss Fennell took place on November 23rd.

18. The Committee of the Barclay Home for blind girls at Brighton have purchased an adjoining freehold house at a cost of £1,400. The necessary adaptation and repairs have cost an additional £600. The purchase was necessary because the Brighton Asylum for the Blind has decided to receive in future blind boys only, and the girls have been transferred to the Barclay Home. The new wing was opened on December 12th by H.R.H. Princess Louise, who uncovered in the corridor a brass tablet on which the inscription is "The Princess Louise Wing. Graciously opened by H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll; December 12th, 1904." The Princess was much interested in the weaving and basket-making, and gave an order for some baskets.

19. The 2nd annual meeting of the friends of the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind was held on October 25th, at Hanley, and we much regret that we were unable to accept a kind invitation to be present. The Bishop of Shrewsbury presided and Mr. E. V. Greatbatch, to whom so much of the success of these workshops is due, moved the adoption of the report for the year ended June 30th, 1904, which was carried. All the workers—14 males and 5 females—have been fully employed every working day, and earned about £300 in wages, exclusive of £47 paid as subsidiary grants. The sales amounted to £689, being an increase of about £260, and the net loss was £251. The committee announce that the employment of female blind workers has achieved all that was expected, and Mr. Greatbatch informs us that the manufacturers of the district have responded so liberally to the appeal for orders for baskets and other trade requirements that constant employment has been given to every worker. Eight boys and three girls, all natives of North Staffordshire, have taken up occupation in the Workshops immediately on completing their educational period at the Stoke-on-Trent Blind and Deaf School. This is a strong proof of the need and value of the workshops. We have been permitted to see a valuable report by Mr. A. J. Storey, the headmaster of the School (which appears in the minutes of the committee), on the

after-school industrial progress of ex-pupils of the Institution since its establishment. The report shows, by the number of ex-pupils in regular employment, that the result of the training is very satisfactory and practical, and that there is an active After-care Committee, which does all it can to put children on leaving the school in the way of earning their living.

20. On October 25th a large meeting convened by the Lord Mayor, was held in Bristol to consider the advisability of removing the Blind Asylum to a larger site in the country. It was stated that a suitable site of eight and a half acres, close to a railway station, could be bought for £2,800, and that the estimated value of the present property in Queen's Road is £38,000. The following resolution was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by the High Sheriff and carried unanimously:—
 "That in the opinion of this meeting of the citizens of Bristol, the proposal of the committee of the School of Industry for the Blind for the removal of the Institution to a more commodious site and building, deserves the support of the citizens of Bristol and the public generally."

It has been decided to apply to Parliament in the ensuing Session for leave to bring in a Bill to confer additional powers upon the Governing Body, and to amend an Act passed in 1832 intituled "An Act for better governing and regulating an Institution in the City of Bristol, called and known by the name 'The Bristol Asylum or School of Industry for the Blind.' "

21. The Committee of the North London Homes for blind men and women have recently purchased two more freehold houses, numbers 65 and 67, Hanley Road, adjoining the present Home, at a cost of £1,900, in order to mark the completion of 25 years work on April 22nd, 1905. Accommodation will, therefore, be provided for 22 additional cases, bringing up the total to 127. The property, which is all freehold, consists of eight houses, a large hall and laundry, and is invested in Trustees for the benefit of the Blind in perpetuity.

22. On October 8th we much enjoyed a visit, by kind invitation, to the Linden Lodge Residential School for blind boys, 26, Bolingbroke Grove, Wandsworth Common, S.W. The school belongs to the London County Council, and the guests were received and kindly entertained by Miss M. Garraway, the resident lady superintendent. The programme consisted of reading and writing, gymnastics, and drill by the pupils, and also an exhibition of work and presentation of prizes. There is a very good gymnasium and manual department in the grounds of the school, and there were excellent specimens of basket, wood, and iron work, which reflected great credit on the teachers. Some ingenious games were shown, which had been skilfully made by one of the assistant teachers for amusing the children.

23. On November 10th we visited the new premises of the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind at 125, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W. The rooms are spacious, and more shelves can be put up, when required. The books have been carefully and methodically arranged, and there are catalogues in ordinary and Braille types. The demand for books is increasing, and it is much to be regretted that this library which is doing such excellent work for the Blind is not better supported by the public.

24. The following is a copy of a rather remarkable police notice issued on November 23rd last from the Chief Constable's Office, York. The sympathetic, thoughtful, and kind reference which is made in the last paragraph to the industrious Blind, is worthy of note and of imitation by other municipalities:—
 "Having received many complaints respecting the annoyance and danger caused by the obstruction of footpaths in various parts of the city, this is to give notice that the police have special instructions to report (with a view to proceedings being taken before the magistrates) any person who by leaving any dustbin, box, pail, or other articles, or by any other means causes any obstruction on any footpath, or who wheels any

barrow, truck, or bicycle on any footpath. It should be remembered (among other things) that there are a number of Blind persons in this city busily occupied and dependent on the thoughtfulness of others, and as these obstructions generally arise from want of thought, I feel sure that after this notice such obstructions will no longer continue.—JAMES BURROW, Chief Constable.”

25. Mr. John Cory has kindly given some books in Braille and Moon types to all the workers at the Cardiff Institute for the Blind, and the presentation took place by Mr. Richard Cory on November 23rd, when Mr. Hughes, one of the blind workers, returned thanks for the gift on behalf of himself and co-workers. Mr. J. Cory has also given in addition about 100 volumes to form the nucleus of a library.

26. The following is an extract from the report of the 13th year's work of the Sunbeam Mission:—"The Branch for the Blind has been an unparalleled success in every way, and, as the workers say, it is a source of untold pleasure to the blind children; indeed it seems almost to arouse more sympathy than any other branch of the work. It is not possible to mention even a small portion of the kindness shown to these children, but one most generous action emanating from the British and Foreign Bible Society must be gratefully noticed. On hearing that many of these children possessed no portion of the Bible of their own, the Society kindly offered to do their best to provide a Gospel in Braille for any blind child on the lists of the Sunbeam Mission, whose case is recommended as really necessitous. Many have already received a copy, and wonderful results have followed." It will be remembered that in number 25, issued last January, a most interesting account of the Blind Branch of the Sunbeam Mission was given by the Hon. Sec., Miss Beatrice Taylor.

27. Mr. Alfred R. Gaul, Head Music Master of the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, and a member of the

committee appointed by the Bishop of Worcester "to investigate the principles which should govern the use of music in Churches," inserted the following extract in the report presented to the Worcester Diocesan Conference, held at Birmingham on November 23rd:—"I am most anxious to bring under the notice of the Clergy and Church Councils the fact that it is in their power to render very great assistance to the Blind by giving them engagements as organists. The fact of an organist being blind need represent no difficulty nor loss in carrying out the musical part of the Church Service with the utmost efficiency. Indeed, instead of a loss, it would be a gain to a church to have a blind organist, if part of his salary were devoted to the engagement of a paid bass or tenor singer, whose duty would consist of taking charge of the choir (as regards their conduct) and acting as principal singer. In the matter of the organist learning new music, all difficulty is removed—thanks to the system of Braille. All musical students at this institution are taught this wonderful system, which places the blind musician almost on a level with a sighted one so far as the reading and recording of music are concerned. Ample opportunity for gaining experience in choir training and accompanying the choir is afforded in the institution. As executants in organ playing, many blind musicians are quite equal to sighted organists. Quite recently one of our students (through the kindness of Mr. C. W. Perkins, city organist) gave a recital in the Birmingham Town Hall, when one of the items he played was J. S. Bach's "Giant Fugue in G Minor." This pupil and another, who is still in the institution, obtained in 1903 the distinction A.R.C.O. on their first attempt. The successes at this examination as regards the 199 who sat did not quite reach the percentage of one out of three. If we cannot gain the sympathy of the clergy in this matter it is difficult to know where we are to look for assistance."

Before the proceedings of the Conference commenced and during the luncheon hour, Mr. Priest and Mr. Robins, the two pupils mentioned by Mr. Gaul, played selections of music on the organ. The adoption of the report was moved by Earl Beauchamp and carried, and Mr. Gaul, in speaking on the

report, expressed a hope that the clergy would employ more blind organists than they do at present, as they are well qualified to play the organ. Mr. Gaul's remarks bore fruit very quickly, because the next morning an offer came from a clergyman in the district to take, as organist, one of the pupils at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind.

28. A lady who lost her sight as an adult, 16 years ago, has drawn our attention to the fact that there must be many blind persons who could, like herself, continue to correspond with their friends, sign and arrange business papers, in their own handwriting, if they would practice it with a pencil or fountain pen on a simple little pocket writing guide, such as she has invented for her own use and that of friends similarly afflicted. It is very light and portable, and has the advantage of having pliable lines placed ready for use.

In reading the story of "The Blind Squatter" in the last magazine, she notices that he was not dependent on Braille and his typewriter for all his business transactions with his sighted friends. This invention, the "Millard Blind Writing Guide," can be purchased at the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W., price—note paper size 3s. 6d., quarto, letter size 5s. 6d., post free.

29. The following books have been recently published in Moon's type:—"Ivanhoe," in 8 vols., price 3s. 8d. each; "Poor Doubting Christian," in 2 vols., 2s. 8d. each; "The Book of Ruth," and "The Epistles of St. James and of St. John" in Tamil; "The First Epistle to the Corinthians," chapter 15; "The Epistle to the Ephesians" and to the "Colossians," chapter 3, in Armenian, and also in Armeno-Turkish. In the latter language are published also "St. John's Gospel," chapters 3 and 15, and "St. Mark's Gospel" is in hand.

30. The French Academy awarded on November 24th its highest prize of 3,200 francs to the Association Valentin Haüy, on account of its philanthropic work. We heartily congratulate

Monsieur M. de la Sizeranne, the devoted and earnest secretary, on this high honour, which he richly deserves for his unremitting enthusiasm and ever ready and valuable advice in all matters relating to the Blind.

31. At a meeting of the London County Council, held on October 18th last, it was agreed to refer to the Education Committee to consider the need in East London of training schools for handicrafts for poor blind adults, and for blind scholars leaving the elementary schools.

32. The directors of the Edinburgh Asylum and School for the Blind are considering the reconstruction of the buildings with the view of bringing them up to date, or the transferring of the Institution to some place outside the city where the school and manufactory can be combined. A sub-committee has been formed to select an architect to advise generally as to the proposed alterations.

33. Mr. Pine of the Nottingham Institution for the Blind was the chief speaker at the Bradford Institution for the Blind on November 3rd, Founder's Day. He took as his subject "Progress in the cause of the Blind."

34. Dr. Andrew Wilson wrote in the *Illustrated London News* of September 24th, 1904:—"It is always gratifying to be able to read a diminution in the proportion of blind members of the population. I believe this is due to the diffusion of knowledge regarding the care of the eyes at birth, industriously circulated by various societies. In 1851 the number of blind persons in England and Wales was set down at 1,056 to the million. To-day the proportion is 792 to the million."

35. The Ministry of Home Affairs in Italy has granted 6,000 lire to the National Society for the Blind, but in consequence of a heavy tax the gift is reduced to 4,625 lire.

36. The Oxford Society for the Blind is bringing pressure to bear upon the Education authorities of Hook Norton, Oxford-

shire, to have a blind child, aged 12 years, sent to an Institution. The authorities were apparently unaware that the child's attendance at school is compulsory under the Act of 1893.

37. Mr. A. L. Lowe, Chairman of the Committee of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, has been appointed this month to the vacancy in the Birmingham County Court Registrarship. The appointment combines the positions of County Court Registrar with the District Registrarship of the High Court of Justice. We heartily congratulate Mr. Lowe on obtaining this high position in the legal profession, for which we understand there were about forty candidates.

ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION TO MR. JAMES H. HEWITT.

On December 21st an illuminated address and a richly upholstered wicker chair were presented by the workers at the Workshop for the Blind, Belfast, to Mr. Hewitt on his completing twenty-five years of successful management. We understand that the chair, which is of the Derby pattern and upholstered in fine electric blue Moquette with a spring seat, is the finest piece of workmanship ever produced at this institution, which is noted for its good basket work. We congratulate Mr. Hewitt on this pleasant acknowledgment of the competent way in which he has performed his duties. The address is as follows:—

“Over twenty-five years have elapsed since you were appointed to the position of manager of the Workshops for the Industrious Blind, and we, the employés, deem it a fitting opportunity to express the respect and esteem with which you are regarded by all the workers. Your wise advice, kindly sympathy, and practical assistance are always at our disposal in any of the many difficulties we have to contend with; and so freely and heartily have your services been given in all our troubles, that we realise we have in you not merely an efficient manager, but also a personal friend.

“The progress of the institution under your management

is a sufficient proof of your business capacity. The growth has been so steady and rapid that it now occupies a position which, we are pleased to know, is equal to that of any of the kindred institutions in the Kingdom, and in many ways superior to most of them. This result, notwithstanding the comparatively small financial assistance the institution has received, has been largely owing to your wise and judicious control. We would therefore ask you to accept the accompanying chair of our own manufacture, with this illuminated address, as a tangible, though slight and inadequate, token of our feelings. We pray that you may be long spared to occupy the position you have so worthily filled, and that all spiritual and temporal blessings may rest on you and your respected wife and family."

And Mr. Hewitt's reply is:—

"I cannot adequately express to you how deeply sensible I am of the kindness which prompted your handsome gift, and the kind, but all too flattering, words of your beautiful address.

"In thanking you most warmly, I look upon these as tokens of an affection and regard which I shall always highly value.

"It is true the institution has grown and developed greatly during the past twenty-five years; but this is due, not so much to my ability, as to the devoted and faithful staff who have assisted me. To them, I feel, is greatly due the praise you have so kindly conferred on me. Their willing co-operation, readiness to carry out my wishes, and their valuable suggestions, together with your own acquiescence on any changes that were made, contributed largely to the success you mention. Above all, my dear friends, there is One who overrules everything, without whom our best efforts are unavailing—to Him be all the glory.

"This much, however, I may say: It has ever been my earnest ambition to advance the interests of the Blind, and it is gratifying to know that our united efforts have not been wholly unsuccessful.

"In conclusion, you have been good enough to include my wife and family in your kind expressions of regard, and on their behalf as well as my own, I would again most warmly thank you."

THE BLIND IN IRELAND.

According to the Census returns in 1901, there were then 4,253 totally blind persons in Ireland. Taking the population at 4,458,775, this represents a proportion of 954 per million of inhabitants, as against 1,135 in 1891, a decided and satisfactory improvement.

The proportion in England and Scotland for 1901 were 778 and 727 respectively.

Of the 4,253 in Ireland, 2,438 were over 60 years of age, and 11 over 100; 766 were pauper inmates of workhouses, and 1,671 were totally uneducated. These figures do not include the partially blind, who numbered 1,217.

At the time of the great Irish Famine—or say from 1849 to 1852 (inclusive)—an ophthalmic epidemic occurred, when no less than 118,835 cases were treated in the Union Workhouses of Ireland, 84,136 being children under 15 years. It is doubtless due to this fact that so many aged blind persons are to be found in Ireland, and this might also partly account for the excessive proportion here as compared with England and Scotland. Had it not been for this epidemic, it is very probable that the ratio would have been lower in Ireland than in those two countries, as the proportion in Connaught, where the disease was less prevalent, is now only 691 per million.

Philanthropy has done a good deal to ameliorate the condition of the Blind in Ireland, but much has been left undone. While large legacies have been bequeathed and generous contributions given for the benefit of the Blind in the two richer sister countries, in Ireland the cause has had to exist upon such small donations as less favoured benefactors could spare. However, to the credit of the country, I think it may fairly be said “She hath done what she could.”

There are in all twelve Institutions, making provision for 750 blind persons, while a Home Mission to the Blind and a Home Teaching Society are keeping in touch with, and assisting where necessary, about 200 more.

Nine of these institutions are asylums, of which five are in

Dublin, two in Cork, one in Armagh, and one in Limerick. There are three institutions in Belfast, one being purely educational, another industrial, and a third a Home for the Blind. In connection with the workshops a Library and Home Teaching Society are successfully maintained, while the Home for the Blind conducts a successful mission amongst the Blind of the city.

It will be observed that the Asylum system rather than the Workshops has been largely adopted as a means for alleviating the condition of the Blind. Workshops are generally acknowledged to be the most approved method, but local conditions sometimes make it almost impossible to conduct them with anything like reasonable success. The country is poor, depending for its mainstay almost entirely upon agriculture, and the scarcity of manufacturing industries, except in a few of the northern counties, naturally entails a corresponding lack of work suited to the Blind. The Blind themselves, as a rule, dislike asylums, as this mode of life deprives them of that freedom which is dear to every man, and subjects them to many restrictions of a semi-prison character. The problem is—What can be done for them? Like their fellow-sufferers in England and Scotland many desire work, but from what source is it to come?

It is worthy of note that when the King and Queen visited Ireland recently, the members of the Blind League presented a petition to their Majesties—not for State Pensions or Asylums—but for work to enable them to earn their livelihood, and one might fairly ask: What better form could State Aid take than this? Is it not within the power of the Government to give more employment to the Blind than they are now doing? How many thousands of hampers are required yearly for the Post Office and how many hundreds of thousands of brushes for the Army and Navy, articles which the Blind are quite capable of making. In 1903 no less than 14,000 wicker parcel post receptacles were purchased by the Department, most of which could have been made by the Blind with a little training and the assistance of the partially blind, or seeing workmen.

It is gratifying to see that the Post Office authorities have lately shown a more ready disposition to help the Blind by giving them a large share of repairs to old hampers; but why not give them more of the new work also? Surely they have as strong a claim as seeing workers. By what law of equity should their more favoured competitors be granted a preference? Let the Blind be given as large a share as possible and paid the same rate of wages as sighted workers, with the latter, or the partially blind, employed to assist them, and let the restrictions of inspection be a little less rigid, and there is no reason why the condition of many more of our blind people should not be materially improved.

THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND. The Primary education of this class in our country follows closely the lines of the same work in England and Scotland, and embraces reading and writing in Braille, arithmetic, geography, history, grammar, general knowledge and religious instruction, together with music and certain other accomplishments for those who have the aptitude and talent.

It is a matter of considerable regret that an Act for the compulsory education of the Blind does not exist in Ireland, as in England and Scotland. As a result, many children with over-indulgent parents, who cannot be induced to send them to any of the Institutions for the Blind, grow up in helpless ignorance. What the education of the Blind urgently requires at the present time is a liberal measure of State Aid. Their condition, both in respect of education and employment came under the scope of the Royal Commission of 1885, and for some time after, nobody doubted but that its recommendations would be promptly carried out. The hope, however, has proved fallacious, and the Blind, as well as the Deaf, in Ireland still continue without Government provision for their education.

One is inclined to ask: why have the Irish Parliamentary Representatives not championed the cause of the Blind in Ireland as English and Scotch M.P.'s have done for the Blind of their respective countries? Had they done so, the Blind of Ireland would probably be enjoying the same privileges. One wonders how long such unequal treatment will continue.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE BLIND, as in the matter of Education, follows on lines similar to those adopted in England and Scotland. Basket-making takes the premier place; then there follow in order: Brush-making, the manufacture of new and the cleaning and re-making of old bedding, mat-making, firewood cutting and bundling, music, the manufacture of bamboo furniture, willow peeling, chair caning, upholstering, sewing, knitting, crocheting, with a number of minor occupations, *e.g.*, selling tea, travelling salesmen, collectors, hair teasing, etc., etc.

Basket-making has, I believe, reached as high a state of proficiency in Ireland as in most other parts of the United Kingdom. I have visited many of the leading Institutions in England and Scotland, and am inclined to think that Irish workmanship in this particular is not surpassed by the products of any institution in those two countries. The parcel post hampers, laundry, transit and travelling hampers, rush and wicker chairs, linen baskets, paper, rustic and fancy baskets, will in many instances compare favourably with the output of sighted labour.

Brush-making has been adopted as an industry by only two of the institutions in Ireland:—The Workshops for the Blind, Belfast, and the Richmond Institution, Dublin, both of which institutions have introduced machinery to cheapen and facilitate the finishing of their goods.

The manufacture of new bedding, and the cleaning and re-making of old, are industries easily acquired and at the same time remunerative, both to the Blind and to the institution, but only the Richmond and Belfast establishments have taken these up.

Mat-making is not carried on to any great extent in Irish institutions, except in St. Joseph's Asylum, Drumcondra, Dublin, where the industry has been carefully developed, and mats are produced, of which any workshop might be proud.

Cutting and bundling firewood is an industry highly suited to the Blind, being easily learned. At this occupation females can generally earn about 7s. 6d. per week, and males 14s. It

has been carried on very successfully in the Workshops for the Blind, Belfast, for about nine years. In districts where the population is large and the income of the institution small, I would recommend the use of a chopping machine, and confine the work of the Blind to bundling only. By this means it can be made a more profitable industry, and a more liberal rate of wages can be paid to the workers.

As to music. Quite a number find employment as organists, pianists, etc. A few of the pupils of the Royal Normal College have made their mark in Ireland, and, I believe, are making a comfortable living. Amongst these may be mentioned, Messrs. Hardebeck and Potter, men who do credit to Dr. Campbell and the great Institution over which he so ably presides.

Willow-peeling is an industry suited to old men, and such as are not capable of being taught trades. It might be adopted by many of the institutions in England. The art is easily acquired, and is profitable. The Belfast Institution is, I believe, the only one where this industry is practised.

THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND, BELFAST, were founded by the late Miss Mary Hobson, whose father was for many years Rector of Connor. The loss of sight by a poor man in her father's parish was the primary cause which led to the inception of this noble work. The institution was established in 1871 on a very small scale, but its record since then has been one of steady growth and progress. Twenty-five years ago there were some 30 blind persons receiving the benefits of the institution, the sales amounting to about £3,000, while now there are over 130 connected with it, the sales exceeding £17,000. The wages paid 25 years ago totalled about £800 per annum, with gratuities, etc., amounting to £21. In 1903 the figures stood at £3,100 and £311 respectively.

The institution deals largely in goods not made by the Blind, and its success is partly due to this fact. Had it been restricted, as is the case with some institutions, to the sale of such goods only as the Blind themselves make, they (the Blind) would have suffered very materially, as the profits from these made up for losses entailed in disposing of some of the manufac-

tures by the Blind, and thus left the entire subscriptions to be distributed amongst the needy Blind, in gratuities, sick money, etc. But it may be said:—If you had confined your efforts to the sale of work made by the Blind might you not have sold more of it and thus have been in a position to employ more blind people? No; for the goods referred to could not have been made by the Blind, and on the contrary, the presence of these often facilitated the disposal of work done by them.

The manufactures of bamboo furniture and bass-dressing have been introduced by this institution as employments for the partially blind. Both these industries have succeeded beyond expectation. Bass-dressing is an exceedingly simple operation and one which the Blind learn very quickly. Not only does it add to the limited number of employments for the Blind, but it has also the very desirable advantage of cheapening the cost of dressed bass, by saving the intermediate profit of professional bass dressers.

Another special feature in connection with these workshops is their dining rooms, which were erected a few years ago, and have proved a great success. About 90 of the workers take advantage of them daily, and sometimes as many as 130 meals are served in a day. The prices are so low that they come within the reach of all the workers, and, as many of them live a considerable distance from the workshops, good hot dinners at, often, less than cost, are much appreciated.

The library in connection with this institution is of considerable dimensions, containing many hundreds of volumes in both Braille and Moon. It is open to all the Blind of the city. A trained teacher is employed to teach all who desire to learn. Miss L. A. Walkington, LL.D., has kindly given much time and attention to the development of this good work.

THE ULSTER INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF, DUMB, AND BLIND, BELFAST, is the only one of its kind in the north of Ireland, and since its establishment in 1831 has educated over 400 blind persons. Its pupils have generally turned out well; a few have attained considerable distinction, while numbers have become evangelists and scripture-readers, and many others have proved

themselves to be men of character and influence in their respective neighbourhoods. The present condition of the school is very satisfactory.

THE HOME FOR THE BLIND, BELFAST, was founded by Mrs. R. B. Pim in 1891. It is situated in a beautiful and healthy locality, and receives both male and female inmates, the number at present being 47, whose happiness, comfort, and welfare (both spiritual and material) are well looked after, and everything is done to make the place a real, genuine "home." It has no connection financially with the workshops, but a good number of those employed in the latter prefer to board and lodge in it to living in private lodgings, and even many of the Blind who reside in their own homes find it a great source of attraction, their repeated visits receiving a warm welcome from the kind-hearted Christian matron. A very successful mission is also conducted by the committee. During 1903 as many as 2,191 visits were paid by the bible-woman, and monetary relief given in a great many deserving cases.

THE RICHMOND INSTITUTION FOR THE INSTRUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE INDUSTRIOUS BLIND, DUBLIN, was established in 1809, and was named after the Duke of Richmond, who was then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Basket and mat-making were the first industries taught, but the latter was discontinued after two years. Outdoor workers were first employed in 1819. In 1874 a legacy of £26,000 was left by the Rev. Ed. Pepper for the maintenance of the Institution and the inmates resident in it. Extensive improvements were shortly afterwards made in the premises. At present there are 33 inmates and 29 outdoor workers. General literary instruction is given to the younger persons. The outdoor workers, in addition to their wages, receive each a suit of clothes annually, and supplementary allowances are also given to them varying from 4d. per day for the six working days to persons in their first year, to 1s. per day to those over 45 years in connection with the Institution. In cases of illness a similar allowance is paid to each out-door worker who shall have proved his claim to sick pay. These allowances are paid out of the income from the sale-rooms.

The trades now being followed are basket, mattress and brush making.

ST. JOSEPH'S ASYLUM & SCHOOL FOR THE MALE BLIND, DUBLIN. This Asylum was established in 1859, and is controlled by the Carmelite Brothers. There are 93 inmates, 26 of whom are boys under 15. These, in addition to being technically trained in the arts of mat and basket-making, receive a fair literary education. It is the only Blind Institution in Ireland where mat-making is carried on to a large extent. The quality of their yarn and bordered mats would do credit to any large mat manufacturing concern, and as the prices are reasonable, they are able to command a fair trade. Basket-making is their only other industry. In addition to those connected with the Asylum, the governors are able to give employment to a few outdoor Blind.

THE MOLYNEUX ASYLUM FOR THE PROTESTANT FEMALE BLIND OF IRELAND, DUBLIN, was established in 1815. It has at present 49 inmates who are drawn from nearly every county in Ireland. As in the case of other institutions, complaints are made of the difficulty of inducing the parents of blind children to send them to institutions where they would be well cared for, educated and made useful members of society.

Knitting, crocheting, chair-caning, willow and rush-work, fancy baskets, typewriting and music are taught. The comfort of the aged inmates, some of whom have been in residence over 75 years, is well provided for.

The Institution is not endowed, and requires about £800 annually to meet the cost of maintenance.

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC ASYLUM FOR FEMALE BLIND, DUBLIN. This Institution is under the superintendence of the Sisters of Charity. There are 180 inmates, ranging from 6 years of age to 80. The younger receive a fair education in reading and writing in Braille, grammar, geography and history. About 50 who have shown talent for music have been taught the harp, piano, organ, singing, etc. Some in each accomplishment have proved very successful, but unfortunately have not been able to put their talents to any profitable use. Those who

are capable are taught to knit and crochet. The Institution is partly maintained by grants from the Boards of Guardians.

THE MACAN ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, ARMAGH. This Asylum was founded in 1854 by a Mr. Arthur Jacob Macan, whose father was blind. He bequeathed means adequate to provide an annual income sufficient for the maintenance of 16 blind persons, including all expenses. The Asylum is for men only, who are admitted at all ages from 16 upwards. Any who are able to work are employed at basket-making, and receive a small percentage on their output. They are entitled to six weeks holidays in the year, with an allowance to pay expenses when residing with their friends; their railway fares are also paid to and from their destination. The Governors, as well as Matron and others, endeavour as much as possible, to make the institution a "Home for the Blind."

THE ST. RAPHAEL ASYLUM FOR FEMALE BLIND, CORK, is governed by Nuns. It has 57 inmates, ranging from 3 to 71 years of age. The children are taught the Braille system of reading and writing. Knitting and crocheting are the only industries.

THE COUNTY AND CITY OF CORK ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, CORK, was founded in 1840. It has, at present, 70 inmates: 31 males and 39 females. The former are employed at basket-making, and the latter at knitting, etc. The institution seems to be doing a good work for the Blind.

THE LIMERICK ASYLUM FOR BLIND FEMALES is connected with Trinity Church, Limerick, and provides all that is requisite for the comfort of nine inmates. It was opened in 1834. Knitting and chair-caning are the employments followed.

In conclusion, I would like to add that after many years experience amongst the Blind of this country I can speak of the great majority of those I have met as being manly, upright and sober members of the community, willing and anxious to work if only they could obtain employment. It will be seen from what I have stated that there are proportionately over 25 per cent. more Blind in Ireland than in England and Scotland, that the means for procuring employment for them are vastly inferior,

and also that the monetary assistance available for furthering their cause is far below that of either of those two countries. I have not made reference to the financial condition of any of the institutions mentioned, but I know some of them in their efforts to help as many of the Blind as possible, have overstepped their financial abilities, and their usefulness would be strengthened and extended if they had more adequate means for carrying on their work.

I have stated that I consider workshops preferable to asylums. By this I do not wish it to be understood that I disapprove of the latter. On the contrary I consider them an immense blessing in a country where employment is so difficult to procure, and indeed in the case of many of the aged Blind they are almost indispensable. Finally, I trust the day is not far distant, when our Government, like that of some of the American States, will countenance in a practical way the good work that is being done in all these institutions, by allocating generous state grants; also, when the children in Ireland who are blind or deaf, will be put on a par with those of England and Scotland.

J. H. HEWITT,

*Association for Employment of Inaustrious Blind,
Belfast.*

THE CONFERENCE OF 1905.

The organising committee held their second meeting on October 15th, when there were present the Rev. St. Clare Hill and Messrs. Illingworth, Pine, Stainsby, Tate and Wilson.

It was agreed that the conference should be international, and that invitations should be sent to every known institution for the Blind in the world. It was further agreed that there

should be an International Exhibition comprising educational appliances and apparatus, and manufactures by the Blind, and that the managers of all the institutions should be asked to send exhibits of work done by the Blind.

Institutions for the Blind in Great Britain and Ireland have been requested to contribute £5 5s. if possible, or a less amount, towards meeting the expenses connected with the conference. It is hoped that all the institutions and societies in the United Kingdom and persons interested in the Blind will co-operate with the Committee, so as to make the Conference a success.

Contributions can be sent to Mr. Pine, the Hon. General Secretary, Institution for the Blind, Chaucer Street, Nottingham. The Right Hon. the Earl of Haddington has kindly consented to be President of the Conference and a strong local committee has been formed in Edinburgh with the Rev. Thomas Burns, F.R.S.E., as chairman. Mr. Burns is also chairman of the Edinburgh School for the Blind.

It has been definitely decided that the following subjects shall be discussed at the Conference, and the names of those who have been appointed to be responsible for the several papers are given.

1. "The problem of the 'defective' Blind and its best solution, with special reference to the report issued by the committee appointed at the last conference," by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary to Gardner's Trust for the Blind.

2. "British Braille and an account of what has been accomplished by the British Braille Committee," by Mr. H. W. P. Pine, Secretary of the Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham."

3. "Secondary Education and the Act of 1902, with special reference to education and training for the Blind above 16 years of age," by Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Superintendent of Henshaw's Blind Asylum.

4. "A central bureau and a national register—the best means of bringing them into existence and the benefits to be derived," by Mr. A. B. Norwood, M.A., Superintendent of the Yorkshire School for the Blind.

5. "Boards of Guardians and their relation to the Blind," by Mr. W. H. Tate, member of the Committee of the Bradford Institution for the Blind,

6. "The problem of the better and more general employment of the Blind," by Mr. Colin Macdonald, Manager of the Institution for the Blind, Dundee.

7. "The primary education of the Blind and the Blind and Deaf Act of 1893," by Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind,

8. "The Outdoor Blind in Scotland," by Mr. J. Frew Bryden, Superintendent of the Mission to the Outdoor Blind, Glasgow.

The third meeting was held on January 7th, when there were present Dr. Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Illingworth, Pine, Tate, and Wilson. The meeting lasted nearly three hours, and a great advance was made in the arrangements, including a visit to the Institution for the Blind at Dundee. It was also decided amongst other matters (*a*) to bring out a handbook giving full particulars of the Conference together with a plan and general information of the city of Edinburgh; (*b*) to arrange for apparatus, such as automatic knitting machines, &c., to be worked by blind operators; (*c*) to grant a limited space in the exhibition, free of charge, to exhibitors; and (*d*) to issue later on a general circular with details as to the order of proceedings and regulations at the Conference.

The Hon. General Secretary reported that the response to the appeal for the necessary funds to meet the expenses of holding the Conference had been so far very satisfactory, but that a few of the Institutions had not yet replied. It must be remembered that the expenses in postage, hire of rooms, &c., will be considerable, and that they have to be met by united action on the part of the Institutions for the Blind.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 30.

APRIL 20TH, 1905.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 24th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

This is the last number of "The Blind" that will be published before the International Conference takes place in June next, in Edinburgh. We, therefore, give all the arrangements that have been made up to the time of going to press, and we earnestly hope that those who are interested in the Blind, especially superintendents and managers, will make a special effort to be present at the Conference. The more discussion there is from every point of view, the more likely it is that something practical and beneficial for the Blind will be the result. We are pleased to be able to announce that several experts on questions relating to the Blind are coming from the Continent, America and South Africa, and others have already kindly given their views on the questions to be discussed.

HENRY. J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. Mr. P. Lyttelton Gell has been elected a member of the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind in the room of the late Sir Frederic A. Burrows, Bart.

2. The Rev. R. C. Swayne has resigned the curacy of Filgrave, and has taken a similar post at East Layton, near Darlington, and Mr. H. F. W. Lane, B.A., has passed his final examination as a solicitor. Both were formerly students at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester.

3. A George Barker Memorial has been founded at Queen's College, Oxford, for the Blind, or those in danger of becoming blind, and who intend to study for the Final Honour School of English Literature. The emoluments of this Memorial will be £50 a year, and will be tenable for at least four years from the date of matriculation. An examination will be held on Tuesday, May 23rd, and following days. Candidates, who must be under twenty-two years of age, may offer Classics, Mathematics, or Modern History, but an Essay and General paper will be set for all. They should communicate by letter their intention of standing, to the Provost on or before May 13th, forwarding testimonials of good character, a certificate of date of birth, and notice of the subject selected for examination. The receipt of the emoluments is dependent upon residence, and this will begin with the Michaelmas Term of 1905, provided that the successful candidate has by then passed Responsions or an equivalent Examination. He will be required after Moderations to read for the Final Honour School of English Literature.

4. The following Diplomas and Certificates have been gained by students of the Royal Normal College during the year 1904:—MUSICAL.—Royal College of Organists—Fellowship: Percy Way; Associateships: James Crowley, Robert Leitch, and Edwin Mence. Royal Normal College for the Blind—Teachers' Certificates for Music: Ethel Foster, and Jane Shephard; Piano-forte Tuning Certificates: Conrad Berkes, William Clay, Edwin Mence, Wilfrid Norris, Hector Rees, Arthur Thatcher, and William Thick. LITERARY.—Fawcett Memorial Scholarship (tenable at Oxford for four years): Wilfrid Schofield. Education Department—Training College Certificates, second year: Joseph Crocker, Rosina Freeman (appointed a Governess), Bessie

Hendry (has returned to complete musical studies), and Louisa Robertson (passed her examinations in a previous year, but returned to study music, now appointed teacher in Barclay Home, Brighton); King's Scholarships: Mary Balls, Grace Bussell, and Gertrude Clements; Caroline Wilburn (appointed to School for the Blind, Leeds). **SHORTHAND AND TYPEWRITING.**—Royal Normal College for the Blind—Braille Shorthand and Typewriting Certificates: Lizzie Holroyd (appointed Clerk in Offices of Huddersfield Education Council), Daisy Kay, and Nellie Leitch. **PHYSICAL.**—Life-Saving Society—Medallion: Charles Kedwell; Proficiency Certificates (for proved ability in the theory and practice of saving life from drowning): John Bailey, Robert James, Joseph Lister, Albert Smith, Arthur Strangways, and Percy Williams.

5. Lord Londonderry, President of the Board of Education, has appointed the Hon. Maude Lawrence to the newly established post of "chief woman inspector," and we venture to tender her our sincere congratulations on being the first lady to hold such an important position. Miss Lawrence, to whom we have referred more than once in these pages, is well known in the "blind" world, as Chairman of the Special Schools Subcommittee under the old London School Board, and also of the "aftercare committee." The formation of the last-named committee, which is doing much useful and necessary work, was due to her initiative. Miss Lawrence has also served on the Education Committee of the London County Council since May last, being Vice-Chairman of the Special Schools Committee, and was an active member, appointed by the Committee of the Gardner Trust, on the Committee which drew up the valuable report on the "defective" Blind, printed in these pages, April 20th, 1903.

6. H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, has graciously consented to become President of the Barclay Home for Blind Girls, Brighton; and Lily, Duchess of Marlborough, and Sir Francis Mowatt, G.C.B., have been elected Vice-Presidents. A circular letter, drawing attention to the Home,

has been sent to all the Education Authorities in England and Wales, impressing on them the benefit and advantage to the children, if sent to school at the earliest age possible.

7. Mr. Walter Corbett-Dyer, who has for ten years been Headmaster of the School for the Blind, Upper Avenue Road, London, N.W., has resigned, and with a friend of his has started a School for the Blind of the upper classes—more particularly for those who require individual attention—at Blendon Grove, Bexley, Kent. Mr. G. F. Gadsby, previously second master, in the school, has taken Mr. Corbett-Dyer's place as Headmaster.

8. We regret to learn that Miss Cousins, the Head Mistress of the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, will, about midsummer, retire from her post which she has so ably filled for the past 14 years. We feel sure that all who know Miss Cousins and her devoted labours will wish her every happiness in her retirement.

9. Mrs. W. E. Tyer, a member of the Committee of the West London Workshops for the Blind, read on February 22nd, an interesting paper, entitled, "Work for the Blind," which we were privileged to read, at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

10. The report of the Gardner Trust for the Blind for the year 1904, appeared in the *Times*, *Standard*, and *Daily Telegraph*, of January 7th, and has also been printed, as a booklet, with a list of the names and addresses of the 225 pensioners, and of the amounts paid to each. The Committee, after recording with regret the death of the Right Hon. James Lowther, one of the Trustees, and Sir Frederic A. Burrows, Bart., a member of the Committee, refer with satisfaction to the fact that several of the new Education Authorities are assisting, under Part II. of the Education Act, 1902, blind persons on attaining the age of sixteen years. The Committee expended no less than £4,713 during 1904, in securing for 176 blind persons above the age of sixteen further instruction in the professions and trades by which

they hope to earn their living, feeling assured that such extra instruction was most essential in order to ensure for the beneficiaries some reasonable success in their life-work. The following disbursements have been made during the year:—

1. £4,048 towards the board and tuition of 115 Scholars at various Colleges and Institutions, including three Scholarships at £60 each, tenable at Oxford University.
2. £2,860 to 225 Pensioners. There are 27 Pensioners at £20, 68 at £15, and 130 at £10 a year.
3. £1,586 to 32 Institutions and Societies towards the cost of new or enlarged buildings, general purposes, &c.
4. £665 towards the fees for instruction of 61 pupils above the age of sixteen, at various schools and workshops.
5. £529 to 82 individuals for assistance in starting, or carrying on, their trades as pianoforte tuners, basket makers, mat makers, chair caners, &c.

The Committee are compelled once more to draw attention to the fact that the applications for pensions, many of which are most urgent and deserving, are far in excess of the amount that can be allotted to this branch of the work, and of the vacancies.

11. A copy of the last number of "The Blind," which contains Mr. Hewitt's interesting article on "The Blind in Ireland," has been sent to nearly every member of Parliament who holds a seat in Ireland. We trust, therefore, that some action may be taken so that at least "the children in Ireland, who are blind or deaf, will be put on a par with those of England and Scotland."

12. On February 26th, Mr. Henry Stainsby, General Superintendent and Secretary of the Institution for the Blind at Birmingham, completed his 25th year of work for the Blind in connection with that Institution, and this event was made the occasion of a presentation by the members of the Staff of a pair of massive bronzes. A former Secretary of the Institution, Mr. George Burkinshaw, made the presentation on behalf of the Staff, and several of the officers who have known Mr. Stainsby during the whole of the period he has been connected with the

Institution, spoke in the highest terms of his untiring zeal in the cause of the Blind and of the splendid results which he had achieved. Mr. Stainsby responded, and spoke of the kind feeling which had prompted the action, which he said was valued by him even more than the gift itself, valuable as it was. He further remarked that his work among the Blind had often been difficult, but nevertheless pleasant, and that any success was due mainly to the loyal co-operation of the staff. At a meeting of the Committee of the Institution, held on March 20th, the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Arthur L. Lowe, Chairman of the General Committee, and seconded by Mr. W. Ashby Bolton, Chairman of the House Committee, was unanimously adopted, "That this Committee offer to Mr. Henry Stainsby their cordial congratulations on the completion of his 25 years' service to this Institution, as Schoolmaster, Secretary, and General Superintendent, and heartily wish him health and strength to carry on for many years his splendid work in the cause of the Blind, not only in Birmingham, but all over the United Kingdom." A beautiful engrossed and illuminated copy of the resolution, bound in book form, has been sent to Mr. Stainsby by the Committee.

13. The Godfrey Ermen Memorial Home of Rest for the Blind, Southport, which is a gift to the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, is to be opened on Tuesday, May 16th, by the Bishop of Liverpool.

14. The annual Christmas Tree Festival at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, was held on Saturday afternoon, January 21st. It was a specially interesting occasion from the fact that the Chair was taken by the Speaker of the House of Commons (The Right Hon. William C. Gully), and that his daughter, Mrs. Granet, most kindly consented to unveil the tree, which had been given by Mr. W. Tebb, of Rede Hall, Horley. Before this ceremony took place, a concert was given by the pupils of the College, the first piece being a Carol Anthem, "The First Christmas Eve," specially composed for the

occasion, by Miss Emily Lucas, F.R.C.O., an old pupil of the College, and much interest was also shown in a recitation by three little girls, and a galop march for eight hands on one piano, played by four little boys. A very fine effect was given by the rendering of Rubinstein's Concerto in G major, No. 3, for piano and orchestra, by Mr. Horace Watling, A.R.C.O., the orchestral part being played on a second piano by Mr. James Crowley, A.R.C.O. The Speaker of the House of Commons expressed his great gratification at all he had seen and heard. He was surprised as well as pleased at many things the pupils were able to do, and congratulated Dr. Campbell on the results attained. To enable those apparently disqualified by blindness for the battle of life to become men and women capable of earning their own living was a great achievement, and opened a new page in active philanthropy. He felt that a strong point in Dr. Campbell's favour in an appeal for State aid was the impressive fact that 89 per cent. of the blind who left the Normal College were able to earn their own living. He hoped the country would recognise the importance of that fact. A vote of thanks to the Speaker and Mrs. Granet was then proposed by Sir Albert Rollit, M.P., seconded by Sir Charles Elliott, and unanimously carried.

15. Thanks to the kindness and courtesy of Mr. B. P. Jones, Superintendent and Organiser of Blind and Deaf Schools under the London County Council, we were enabled to pay a most interesting and instructive visit, on January 31st, to Stormont House, where there is a Special School for Defective Blind and Deaf Children. We were much pleased to see the good work which is being carried on by the patience, skill, and tact, shown by the two teachers, Miss Bryan and Mrs. Grimmett, and by the methods of teaching adopted by them. We hope to give further particulars of the excellent work at this special school—the only one of its kind—in the paper we are preparing to read at the Conference in June next.

16. On January 27th we much enjoyed, at the kind invitation of the Hoxton Schools Society, a visit to Essex Hall, where

the annual treat was given to the 270 blind children in the London County Council Schools. They came from ten centres, including the three residential schools. They arrived in omnibuses at 3 p.m., and were entertained with songs, recitations and the gramophone until 4 p.m., when a substantial tea, kindly provided by the *Westminster Gazette* Christmas Fund, was served. At 4.45 p.m., presents, given by the Hoxton Schools Society, were distributed, and a roll of paper with the following lines written in Braille, and containing a cracker with toys was given to each child by Miss Beatrice Taylor, with best wishes from the Blind Branch of the Sunbeam Mission:—

O, brother man! Fold to thy heart thy brother;
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly is to love each other,
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

* * * * *

Follow with reverent steps the great example
Of Him Whose holy work was "doing good";
So shall the wide earth seem our Father's temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

* * * * *

(Whittier.)

Do what you can, being what you are,
Shine like a glow-worm, if you cannot be a star;
Be the pliant oar, if you cannot be a sailor,
Be the little needle, if you cannot be a tailor;
Be the cleaning broom, if you cannot be the sweeper,
Be the sharpened sickle, if you cannot be the reaper.

* * * * *

(Judge Payne.)

MOTTO.

"A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in little things
is a very great thing."

The children never seemed happier than on this occasion, and it was indeed a privilege and pleasure to see them so bright and merry, and to watch the many voluntary helpers vying with each other in attending to the needs of those under their special care. We heartily congratulate Miss Rose Petty, the Hon. Secretary of the Society, who seemed to be ubiquitous, on organising so successfully such an important and pleasure-giving entertainment. There is no small responsibility in bringing together so many

blind children from the various centres, and that this was managed without any mishap, is sure evidence that the organisation was excellent and carefully planned.

17. H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, who is President of the National Lending Library for the Blind, paid a private visit on Tuesday morning, January 17th, to the new premises, 125, Queen's Road, London, W.

18. By the death of the Bishop of Llandaff on January 24th, the Blind have lost a kind and sympathetic friend. A blind brother of his, who predeceased him, had given him a knowledge of the capabilities of the Blind, and the five blind men he ordained have proved by their efficiency that his confidence in them was not misplaced. The following lines from the pen of the Rev. T. Barnard, express fully the feeling of the Blind towards their good "Father in God."

Not many years have sped since first 'twas mine
 To grasp the hand, the kindly voice to hear,
 Of him whom I shall ever hold most dear,
 And in my heart his memory enshrine.
 Sweet tact was his, with dignity benign;
 My "Sire in God" I could not but revere,
 And yet to speak my thoughts I did not fear,
 So well he understood my life's design.
 Nor did he count it aught but joy to lend
 In my most trivial needs his timely aid;
 And often then I thought of Him Who said,
 And yet shall say again at this world's end,
 "Blest of my Father, all ye did to one
 Of these my servants, unto Me was done."

The following are the five blind men ordained by the Bishop of Llandaff:—Rev. Thomas Barnard, M.A., Curate of Christchurch, Paignton, S. Devon; Rev. John Swinnerton, B.A., Curate of St. Bride's Minor, Bridgend, Glamorganshire; Rev. Greville C. Pope, M.A., Curate of Hyde, Cheshire; Rev. W. S. C. Palmer, B.A., Curate of Marshfield, Monmouthshire. By the Bishop of Ely, for the Bishop of Llandaff:—Rev. Gordon Smith, B.A., Curate of St. Catherine's, Pontypridd, Glamorganshire.

19. We have to thank the Committee and Mr. Hedger, the Manager, of the Sydney Industrial Blind Institution, for a very pretty Braille Christmas Card for the Blind, with translation, which was embossed by stereotype machine at the Institution.

20. We are much pleased to hear that the Committees of the Walsall, and of the Wednesbury, Darlaston, and Tipton Home Teaching Societies for the Blind, have formed a joint Committee for the purpose of establishing in Walsall a workshop for the Blind of South Staffordshire, similar to the very successful one started for the Blind of North Staffordshire. At first it is intended to employ twelve men in premises rented for the purpose, and it is estimated that an outlay of £500 is required for the first year in order to put the scheme in operation

21. The annual meeting of the London Home Teaching Society for the Blind was held on March 24th, at the residence of Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Goldmann, when Lord Midleton presided. The speakers were the Venerable Archdeacon of Middlesex, the Rev. Canon Reith, and Mr. Henry J. Wilson. The 49th annual report for the year 1904, which was adopted, states that there were 1,866 blind persons on the register last year, who were visited by 14 blind teachers, and that an extra teacher had been appointed for work in Surrey.

22. The annual meeting of the Wakefield Societies for the Blind, to which we referred in our last number, paragraph 17, was held on January 18th, when the Mayor of Wakefield presided and the fourth annual report was presented. There are 70 blind people on the books, and ten are employed in the workshop.

23. The Committee of the Home for Blind Women, 9, Aberdeen Road, Clifton, Bristol, have purchased a freehold house, 9, Gordon Road, as a permanent Home for the Blind. There will be accommodation in the new home for 17 inmates besides a matron and servants. The old Home, which was founded 30 years ago by Miss C. Bush, could accommodate only 12 inmates, and the lease has now expired.

24. The Committee of the Yorkshire School for the Blind started cookery classes last month, when one of the cookery teachers under the York Education Committee was appointed as Instructress. The children are already making considerable progress in this new work.

25. The number of members of the Braille Correspondence Club, the primary object of which is to brighten the lives of the Blind by sending them letters in Braille, is now 274 in Great Britain alone. As Braille letters can be sent all over the world at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for every 2 ozs., correspondence has now spread through the Colonies, America, and the Continent. All information about the Club can be obtained on application to Mrs. Phelps, Braillecot, Broadstairs, Kent.

26. An attractive appeal for funds has been issued by the Committee of the Midland Institution for the Blind at Nottingham for the erection of new workshops and the alteration of the present buildings. It is intended to provide a complete technical school for the manual and industrial training of young blind men and women, and a set of well-equipped modern workshops. To carry out the scheme in its entirety, including furnishing and the provision of machinery and tools, a sum considerably in excess of £12,000 will be required. This is the first appeal for funds for capital purposes since the erection of the original building in 1853. The new workshops are in process of erection, but the extent to which the complete plans will be carried out is dependent on the support given in response to the appeal. The buildings are already up to the third or top storey. There is a sub-basement, comprising heating chamber, store-rooms, &c., and three floors of spacious workshops, with white glazed brick dado and fireproof floors, the extreme gabled end of the building providing Stables and Coach-house on the ground floor, above which will be the new Brush Department with an extra storey at this end at the top where the pitch department will be carried on. It may be mentioned that the roof of the new buildings will be flat, with a parapet wall, and it is intended that the large

asphalt space shall be so arranged as to form a very suitable and pleasant recreation area. The Gardner Trust has made a conditional grant of £1,500, which it is hoped may act as an incentive in raising the requisite balance.

27. The Committee of the Northern Counties Blind Society, North Shields, have issued an appeal in the form of a well illustrated booklet, entitled, "Labor in tenebris." A description is given of the objects for which the Society exists, the occupations followed by the blind workers, the trades in which they were previously engaged, and the causes of their blindness, &c. The library contains about 2,588 vols. in Moon's type, and 1,362 vols. in Braille, and in the workshop books are printed in both types, stitched and bound by blind girls and men. There are good illustrations of book-binding, type-setting, and printing by blind operators.

28. Milton's *Areopagitica* in Braille has recently been kindly presented to the Gardner Trust Library.

29. The following books have been added to the Free Library at Oxford:—Selections from Aristotle's *Logic*; Emerson's "Self Reliance"; Introduction to Hegel's "Aesthetics"; Salmon's "Introduction to the New Testament"; "Law of Real Property" (Williams); Notes on "De Senectute" (Cicero); "Criticism on Milton's Poems" (Johnson); "Alexander and Campaspe" (Lyly); "Tamburlaine the Great" (Marlowe); "Edward II." (Marlowe); Old English Verse; Selections from Spenser's "Faerie Queene," with Glossary; Cid's "Spanish Tragedy"; Anglo-Saxon Dictionary; Anglo-Saxon Verse; and in Italian in Moon's Type, St. John (Chap. xiv.), and the Epistles of St. Peter.

30. We have been requested to issue "The Blind" in Braille type, but we regret that we do not see our way to do this, although we would raise no objection to any paragraph or article being reproduced in Braille, provided that the source from which it is taken, is stated.

31. Visitors to Whitby may remember an old woman, who used to sell apples in the street, crying out in a shrill voice. She has recently died, and in her will she left £50 for the benefit of the Blind in Whitby, to be used by Mr. A. Hirst, than whom there could be no better almoner appointed, in such way as he thinks best. It is much hoped that this noble gift may form the nucleus of an endowment fund for the benefit of the Blind in Whitby, and that it will act as a stimulus to those in the locality to emulate the good example of this woman. She also left £50 to the Cottage Hospital.

32. On Sunday, February 26th, a large meeting took place in Melbourne Terrace, Chapel, York, for the purpose of raising money to cover in part the cost of printing in Braille the new Methodist hymn book. The choir of the Yorkshire School for the Blind provided an excellent programme, which included organ solos, songs, part-songs and choruses, and Miss Alice Haller, who took the initiative in raising a sum of £100, for cheapening by one half the cost of the book, gave a brief address and explained that the cost of 100 copies would be about £200, and that the work would be done by the British and Foreign Blind Association. The amount received at the meeting was £10, thus bringing up the Braille Hymn book Fund of which Dr. R. N. Hartley, of Leeds, is Hon. Treasurer, to £70. It is hoped that similar meetings will soon be the means of raising the requisite balance of £30.

33. We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. H. L. Hall, founder and president of the Pennsylvania Home for Blind Men, where the inmates are taught the manufacture of brooms, and receive all the profits of their work. He served during the Civil War, when he became blind, and subsequently he devoted all his energy and interest, with signal success, in enabling the Blind to live by their own industry. He also founded the American Printing House for the Blind.

34. We have recently heard very sad accounts of the neglect of the Blind in Barbados and therefore it is with much

pleasure that we hear that the Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association promptly took up the matter as soon as it was brought to their notice, and have despatched the necessary apparatus for instructing the Blind in Braille. It appears that there is no Institution or Society for the Blind in Barbados, and that the Blind have received no instruction at all, not even in Braille reading and writing. The question is now being taken up very enthusiastically by the Rev. W. H. Mayers, Vicar of St. Matthew's, Barbados, who writes that a letter he received "has so to speak verily opened windows in the Heavens for the entire blind community out here," and he adds "An interest which will, I hope, root itself in our people, and burst forth and grow till we have done something systematic and substantial for all our Blind, who are very numerous." He will be materially assisted in his work by Miss Lisle Gibson, who has recently returned to her home in Barbados after having been educated at the Liverpool School for the Blind. She is a good typist, and took out with her a typewriting machine and also one of the Stainsby-Wayne shorthand typewriters.

35. The West Australian Government sent Mr. J. H. Wilbur, who is totally blind, to Victoria, to lecture on the productiveness of Western Australia. Mr. Wilbur, who belongs to the Lands Department of that State, delivered, without any hesitation, his lectures, which were illustrated by lime-light views, and contained a mass of figures relating to mileage of railways and acreage of land. In fact, in a typed letter of his, which we have been privileged to read, he says, "it was all stored away in the convolutions of the brain to be recalled at will," and after referring to his blindness, as "one of the severest afflictions that could befall a man," he rejoices to know that there are men like Mr. Melrose and others "who have risen superior to circumstances, who have shown the world that the Blind are still capable of taking care of themselves, and still able to carry on successfully great business enterprises."

36. Copies of the report of the Conference held in April

1902, can be obtained, price 2/6 each or 2/10 by post, at the office of the Gardner Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

37. The Secretary of Gardner's Trust has received a letter from the Chairman of the Education Committee of the Royal Commission, St. Louis Exhibition, in which he states that the group in which the Trust's contribution formed a part, was awarded a Grand Prize—the highest honour it was in their power to give. He also thanked the Committee of the Trust for acceding to the request that their exhibits might be presented to some Institution in America, and added that "the exhibit has been presented in the name of Gardner's Trust for the Blind to the Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A."

INSTITUTIONS.

Brighton. In the 12th annual report of the Barclay Home and School for Blind and Partially Blind Girls, 23, 25, and 27, Wellington Road, Brighton, for the year ended December 31st, 1904, reference is made to the purchase of the freehold house, No. 27 in the same road, and to the request that the Home should take 14 girls from the Kemp Town School, which has recently decided to admit boys only. The new house cost £1,400, and the adaptation and furnishing an additional £700. There is a mortgage of £800 on the house. The Home has accommodation for 61 inmates, and at present there are 27 under 16, and 29 above 16 years of age.

Exeter. The 65th report of the West of England Institution for the Blind, St. David's Hill, Exeter, for the year ended December 31st, 1904, was presented at the annual general meeting held on February 24th. The pupils numbered 49 and the journeymen 18, making a total of 67.

Twelve pupils were presented for examination by the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and all were successful, seven gaining honours. The sales of baskets, mats, &c., amounted to £896, and £323 were received in legacies. The blind workmen received £332 in wages, and a supplement of £75. The buildings are old and H.M. Inspector expressed in his report a hope "that the whole question of the sufficiency and efficiency of the present buildings will be seriously considered." There is a Home Teaching Society in connection with the Institution.

Glasgow. The 78th annual report of the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, for the year ended November 30th, 1904, was submitted to the general meeting of subscribers on January 16th. Blind people to the number of 283 are educated, maintained, employed and granted allowances. Reference is made to the rebuilding and erecting the large, healthy and commodious workshops now nearing completion. The equipment of the new Bedding department will be of the most perfect description for the sterilization, purification and re-making equal to new, of old bedding and mattresses, which are passed through a high-pressure steam disinfector, a machine of proved efficiency and in use in many of the hospitals for infectious diseases. The sales amounted to £29,502, the wages to blind workers to £5,946, and £2,607 were paid in augmentation of wages &c. The legacies amounted to £5,801. During the year 86 pupils passed through the school. At the Trinity College Pianoforte Examination three pupils obtained 99, 93 and 93 marks respectively out of a possible 100, Duncan Hunter who obtained 99, securing the highest result of all the competitors in Great Britain.

Hull. The 41st annual meeting of the Hull Blind Institution was held on March 22nd, when the report for 1904 was adopted. The sales amounted to £1,652, and £30 was received in legacies. There are 22 men and 8 women employed in the Institution, and 10 women reside in the Rockcliffe Home. There is a Sick Benefit and Entertainment Branch, a Home Teaching and Library Department, a Home and a Workshop and Manufacturing Department.

Liverpool. In the 114th annual report for the year 1904 of the School for the Blind, Hardman Street, Liverpool, and of the Wavertree Branch School, it is stated that the number of inmates at the close of the year in the former school was 99 (56 men and 43 women), and in the latter 75 (52 boys and 23 girls). Three of the pupils passed the examination of the Incorporated Society of Professional Musicians—two of them obtaining honours. There is an Evening School, and also "The Old Pupils' Fund," from which grants amounting to over £105, were made for purchase of tools, materials, &c. £1,318 were received in legacies.

London. The 32nd annual report of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E., for the year ended December 31st, 1904, was approved at the annual meeting held on March 2nd, at Grosvenor House, when the Earl of Aberdeen presided. Reference is made to the banquet, held at the Hotel Cecil, which yielded a contribution of £1,500 to the College funds, and to the death of Mr. Silcock, the Hon. Ophthalmic Surgeon, and of Mr. F. D. Mocatta and the resignation of the Hon. Solicitor and Hon. Secretary. The highest number of pupils was 155 and the average has been 150. There are 5,506 volumes of embossed books in the library. The college includes five departments:—a preparatory school, a secondary school, a training college, a technical school and an academy of music. Dr. C. H. Lloyd gives an excellent report on the musical department. The income in 1904 amounted to £12,091, of which £1,150 were from legacies.

Manchester. The annual meeting of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society was held on February 9th, when the Lord Mayor presided, and the 5th report for the year ended December 31st, 1904, was adopted. The report records much progress in every department. The Home at Southport, where there is accommodation for 15 men and 15 women, has been completed, and the Manchester Corporation has recognised the usefulness of the Braille Library, as a free library for the Blind, by granting £60 a year towards its upkeep. The Home of Rest

at St. Anne's-on-the-Sea, which is about to be closed, has been visited by 85 blind persons. The Home for Women has had its full compliment of 12 residents during the whole year. In the Braille Industry and Home Teaching 33 blind workers have been employed, and received £265 in wages. There is a Sick and Benefit Branch from which £50 were given in sick pay, £23 in pensions, and £37 in loans. The sales of brushes amounted to £842, and £306 were paid in wages.

Nottingham. The 60th annual meeting of the Midland Institution for the Blind was held on July 27th, 1904, when the report for the year ended March 31st, 1904, was presented. There were then 80 blind persons in the Institution, of whom 40 were outworkers and 40 were pupils, undergoing technical and industrial training. The sales amounted to £6,419, the highest figure in the history of the Institution, and £1,208 were paid in wages to blind workpeople and journeymen. A sum of £93 was granted to old pupils, chiefly for materials. An evening continuation school and gymnastic and swimming classes are provided for the mental and physical training of the technical pupils. All the pianos in the schools under the management of the Nottingham Education Committee are tuned by blind men from the Institution.

Oldham. The 21st annual meeting of the Workshops for the Blind, at Oldham, was held on January 27th, when the report for the year ended December 31st, 1904, was adopted. At the end of the year there were employed 18 journeymen and 6 learners. The sales amounted to £2,249, and £25 6s. were distributed amongst the blind poor from the William Bodden Memorial Fund. The loss on the year's working was nearly £11. An evening class for the Blind is held.

Reading. The 12th annual report of the Reading Blind Aid Society for the year ended January 31st, 1905, has been published. There are 49 names of adults on the register, who have been assisted by the Society with grants of money or in kind. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. H. E. Walford, Pattingham, London Road, Reading.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION OF 1905.

The Organising Committee held their fourth meeting on Saturday, March 18th, when there were present Messrs. Illingworth, Munby, Pine, Stainsby, Tate, and Wilson (in the Chair). Mr. Stott also attended the meeting, and gave information about the local arrangements.

Letters of regret for their inability to attend the meeting were read from Dr. Campbell and the Rev. St. Clare Hill.

The meeting was a very long one, lasting nearly seven hours, with a short interval for lunch, but many important matters were discussed and arranged. Outlines of all the papers to be read had been previously circulated amongst the members of the Committee for suggestions. These were carefully considered, and the sketch plans of the various papers were amended and approved, and returned to their respective compilers. The discussion on each paper will be introduced by a specially selected speaker, whose name will be printed in the complete and final issue of the official programme.

Amongst the local arrangements it was reported that the Rev. T. Burns had received a letter from the Town Clerk of Edinburgh, in which he said, "On the recommendation of the Lord Provost's Committee, the Magistrates and Council at their meeting held on February 7th, resolved to officially welcome the members of the Conference in the City Chambers."

There were several applications to read papers, but the Committee were unanimous in deciding, although with much regret, that they could not accept the offers, as there were already sufficient subjects to be discussed in the time allotted for debate. Suggested papers bearing on any subject already decided on are to be referred to the compiler of such paper.

The correspondence carried on by Mr. Pine and by Mr. Stott has been extremely heavy, and a large debt of gratitude is due to them for undertaking such onerous posts as Hon. General Secretary and Hon. Local Secretary, respectively.

We are glad to hear that several Institutions for the Blind on the Continent, America and South Africa will be represented.

The Handbook will contain much useful and valuable information, including a map of Edinburgh, list of exhibits, &c.

The general prospectus, soon to be issued, was also drawn up and thoroughly discussed, and the following is a copy of it, filled in as far as arrangements had been made up to the time of going to press:—

International Conference on the Blind and Exhibition, Edinburgh, June 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, 1905.

President, The Right Hon. The Earl of Haddington; General Conference Committee:—Mr. Henry J. Wilson (Chairman), Dr. F. J. Campbell, Mr. W. H. Illingworth (Hon. Local Secretary), Mr. H. Stainsby, Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., Mr. F. J. Munby, Mr. W. H. Tate, Mr. H. W. P. Pine (Joint Hon. General Secretary) to whom all official communications should be addressed at the Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham; Local Conference Committee:—Rev. Thos. Burns, F.R.S.E. Chairman of Directors, Royal Blind Asylum and School (Chairman); Miss Stodart, Miss Mair, Judge Gibson, Mr. J. H. Cunningham, Mr. J. Pringle, Mr. David Dickson, Directors, Royal Blind Asylum and School; Councillor Smith Elliott; Mr. William Inman; Mr. C. W. Ness; Mr. W. M. Stone; Mr. G. Stott, Manager, Royal Blind Asylum and School (Joint Hon. Local Secretary).

The Committee appointed by the Conference held in London in 1902 have arranged to hold an International Conference on June 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, 1905, on important subjects relating to the improvement of the condition of the Blind, together with an Exhibition, in the Central Halls, Tollcross, Edinburgh.

The following arrangements and regulations in connection with the Conference and Exhibition have been made:—

Monday, June 19th.—The Exhibition, which will comprise Educational and Technical appliances and apparatus connected with the instruction and training of the Blind, and specimens of work and manufactures by the Blind will be opened at 6 o'clock

p.m. At 8 o'clock p.m., by the kind invitation of the Lord Provost, an official welcome will be given to the members of the Conference by the Lord Provost and Corporation of the City of Edinburgh in the City Chambers.

Tuesday, June 20th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.—Chairman, The Right Hon. The Earl of Haddington (President of the Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh). After a Welcome to the Members of the Conference and the Chairman's opening address the reading of Papers * on the various selected subjects will commence. Subject: EDUCATION OF THE BLIND. "The Primary education of the Blind, and the Blind and Deaf Act of 1893," by Mr. Henry Stainsby, General Superintendent and Secretary of the Institution for the Blind, Birmingham. 2 to 5 p.m.—Chairman (not yet appointed). "Secondary Education and the Act of 1902, with special reference to Education and Training for the Blind above 16 years of age," by Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Superintendent of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester. "British Braille, and an account of what has been accomplished by the British Braille Committee." Report to be read by Mr. H. W. P. Pine, Superintendent and Secretary of the Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham.

Wednesday, June 21st, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.—Subject: EMPLOYMENT OF THE BLIND. Chairman (not yet appointed). "The Problem of the better and more general employment of the Blind," by Mr. C. McDonald, Manager of the Institution for the Blind, Dundee. 2 to 5 p.m.—Chairman, Mr. G. M. Brown, M.P. "A Central Bureau and a National Register, the best means of bringing them into existence, and the benefits to be derived," by Mr. A. B. Norwood, M.A., Superintendent of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, York.

Thursday, June 22nd.—By the kind permission of the Managers and Superintendent of the Royal Glasgow Blind Asylum, an official visit will be paid to that Institution by the Members of the Conference. (For particulars see Handbook).

Friday, June 23rd, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.—GENERAL SUBJECTS.

* These Papers will take the form of collaborated Reports from enquiries made on the various subjects, and information gathered from different sources.

Chairman (not yet appointed). "The problem of the 'defective' Blind and its best solution, with special reference to the Report issued by the Committee appointed at the last Conference," by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind. "The Outdoor Blind of Scotland," by Mr. J. Frew Bryden, Superintendent of the Mission to the Outdoor Blind, Glasgow, &c., 2 to 5 p.m.—Chairman (not yet appointed). "Boards of Guardians and their relation to the Blind," by Mr. W. H. Tate, a Member of the Committee of the Bradford Institution for the Blind.

Saturday, June 24th.—By the kind permission of the Directors and Manager of the Dundee Institution for the Blind, an official visit will be paid to that Institution by the Members of the Conference. (For particulars see Handbook).

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE.

- (a) That no person be admitted to the Conference without a card of invitation with his or her name written upon it, or other evidence of having been invited. All cards will be numbered and non-transferable.
- (b) That the selected Compilers of Papers be limited to 30 minutes.
- (c) That each Paper as soon as read be followed by a discussion and that the length of the discussion be determined by the Chairmen of the respective sessions.
- (d) That any member of the Conference desirous of speaking on any subject in a session shall send, during the meeting, his card, giving his description or connection with the cause of the Blind to the Chairman and await his call.
- (e) That speakers be limited to ten minutes, but that this period may be reduced or extended in special cases, at the discretion of the Chairman.
- (f) That all questions in regard to limiting, or extending, the length of the speeches and the selection of speakers whose cards have been sent up, be in the discretion of the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

- (g) That speakers shall address the Chairman and confine themselves strictly to the subject under discussion.
- (h) That no Member be permitted to speak twice in the same discussion, except to a point of explanation.
- (i) That no formal resolution be moved at any meeting of the Conference except by consent of, and by arrangement with, the General Committee.
- (j) That the official language of the Conference be English.

NOTE.—The Hon. General Secretary's bell will give warning two minutes before the allotted time for papers and speakers, and will sound again at its expiration.

REGULATIONS FOR THE EXHIBITION.

- (a) The Exhibition will be open from 6 to 9 on Monday evening, and daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- (b) Limited space will be granted free of cost to Exhibitors of goods made by the Blind and for appliances and machines intended exclusively for their use.
- (c) A list of the exhibits proposed to be sent must be forwarded to Mr. Stott on or before May 15th.
- (d) All articles exhibited, being either "specimens of work" or manufactures by the Blind (*see above*), must be *bona fide* work of the Blind, or, if otherwise, the amount of sighted labour must be specifically stated.
- (e) All articles for exhibition must have attached to them an official label, application for which, stating the number of labels required, must be made to Mr. Stott, Manager, Blind Asylum, Edinburgh.
- (f) All exhibits must be sent, and will be returned, at the risk of the exhibitors, and all charges must be paid by them.
- (g) All exhibits must be received not later than Friday, June 16th, and must be sent carriage paid, addressed to Mr. Stott, Central Halls, Tollcross, Edinburgh.
- (h) Every care will be exercised in regard to the exhibits, but the Committee will not hold themselves responsible for any

loss or damage caused to the exhibits while in their possession.

- (i) Articles may be for sale if desired, but nothing must be removed until the close of the Exhibition on Friday evening. It must, however, be distinctly understood that all goods are sent for *Exhibition purposes only*.

RAILWAY FACILITIES.

By favour of the Midland, Great Northern, London & North Western, Great Central, Great Western, Lancaster & York, and North British Railway Companies, persons attending the Conference will be able to obtain return tickets to Edinburgh at a single fare and a quarter from any station on the respective lines on production of a special Certificate to be obtained on application, stating class required and station, to the Hon. General Secretary on or before June 8th, and daily from Edinburgh at the same rate, to places within 50 miles of Edinburgh.

The Central Halls are situate in Tollcross, a well-known part of the City, to which the Cars run from the two principal Railway Stations.

VISIT TO INSTITUTION AND CONCERT.

A visit has been arranged for the Members of the Conference to the Edinburgh School at West Craigmillar, a suburb of Edinburgh, on Wednesday evening, and the Workshops at 58, Nicholson Street, will be open to Members during the week.

HOTELS.

Several of the Hotels have made arrangements to receive Members of the Conference, on production of their cards of Membership, at reduced tariffs.—(*see Handbook*). Luncheon or Refreshments may be obtained near the Central Halls.—(*see Handbook*).

HANDBOOK TO THE CONFERENCE.

A Handbook to the Conference and Exhibition, to which reference should be made for further information, is in course

of preparation, and may be obtained, price 1/-, or 1/2 post free, on written application to Mr. Stott after June 5th, or at the Exhibition or Conference Hall.

OFFICIAL TRANSACTIONS.

Those who wish to have a copy of the Transactions, which will contain the Papers and Speeches in full, together with other details, are requested to fill in at once one of the order forms for that purpose.

The price of the publication will largely depend upon the number purchased, but the charge for each copy will not exceed 2/6.

POULTRY REARING AS AN OCCUPATION FOR THE BLIND.

BY CAPTAIN F. PEIRSON WEBBER.

At first thought perhaps, Poultry Rearing as an occupation for the Blind may appear to be an impracticable and worthless suggestion, more particularly to the sighted mind that is inexperienced in the possibilities of sightless crafts and occupations. It is not intended to advocate that Poultry Rearing should be attempted as a profitable industry by the Blind, unless they have the experience, business aptitude, and capital, necessary to control success; but to all who are lovers of nature, to those who enjoy the vigorous pleasure of an active country life, and to others as a variety of thought from the cares of the day, Poultry Rearing is recommended as a pleasurable occupation of practical utility, full of progressive interest.

Experiments during the past two years have adapted Poultry Rearing to the requirements of the Blind, so that the management of incubators and brooders are added to the pleasures of the work.

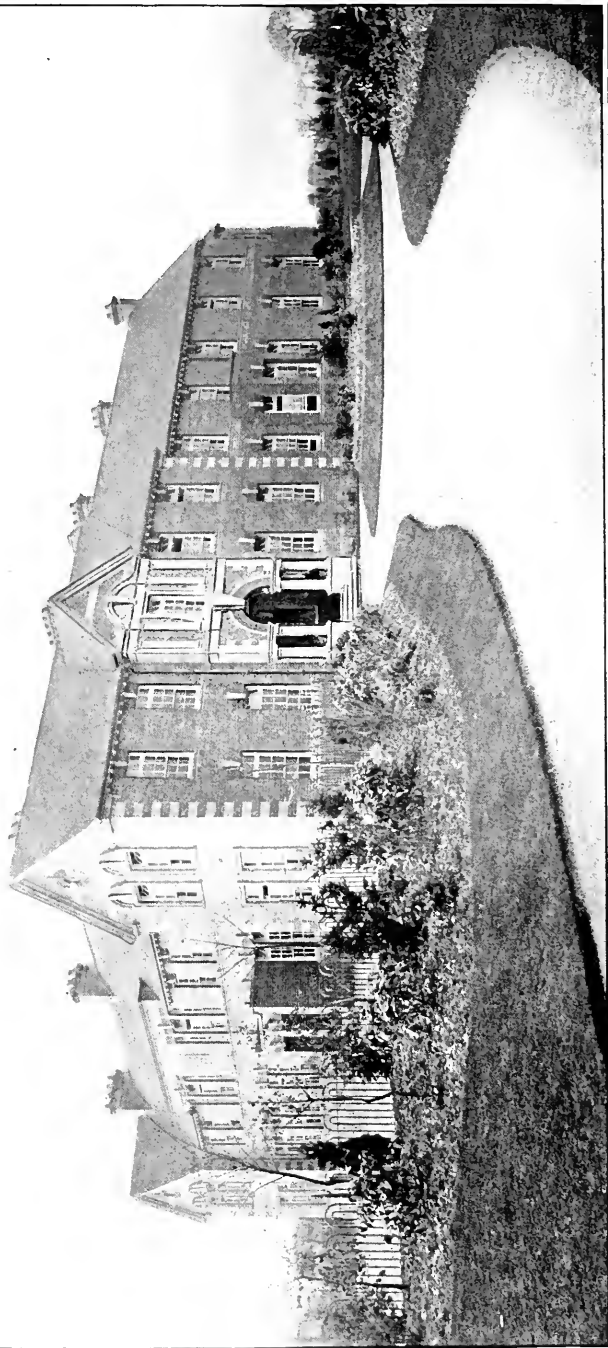
Let it be supposed that a small pen of White Wyandottes have been suitably housed. At first they may be as wild as a

hawk, but under proper management, in a week or so they should be as tame as a trained falcon. A modern fowl-house is so constructed that it is no unpleasant work to keep it sweet and clean. It is well ventilated, and well lighted, so that the peat-moss litter is assisted daily by sunbeams and fresh air in its work of deodorisation. The collection of eggs at once becomes a daily pleasure, while the fellowship of the birds themselves, soon creates an interest in their personality. Payne's trap-nests increase the value of a pen. Each pullet is marked in such a way as to be easily recognised, and its record of eggs is duly entered in a book, then in the late Spring, it is possible to be sure of rearing pedigree poultry from your best layers. A clutch of eggs is entrusted to a reliable brood-hen, or an incubator, and for three weeks this new interest requires special knowledge and particular attention, culminating in the arrival of a brood of healthy chicks. The feeding and management of these pretty little balls of animated fluff have to be most carefully studied. Though good results can be attained from the maternal care of a brood-hen, by far the easiest and most interesting method is to transfer the young brood to an artificial brooder. For the first few days they are relegated to a nursery and warm chamber, but in less than ten days they will be scrabbling and scratching for their food, just as if they were old hens. It is no difficult matter to detect the sick or ailing chick, the necessary treatment is generally self-evident. Then in addition to the many interests already alluded to, there is a pleasure in an occasional bit of rough carpentering that can be done to advantage, and if field poultry-houses are in use these have to be visited, and the surplus eggs marketed or pickled.

If good results do not encourage your efforts, be sure it is not the fault of the poultry, but that it is due to faulty management. Over-crowding, and over-feeding are the chief causes of unsatisfactory results, but that is another story.

Further particulars will be sent to all interested, on application to Captain F. Peirson Webber, Highfield House, Stockton, Rugby.

January 27th, 1905.



THE GENERAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, BIRMINGHAM.

KINDERGARTEN BRANCH SCHOOL—HARBORNE.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 31.

JULY 20TH, 1905.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 23rd, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

The Edinburgh Conference is over, and judging from letters we have received, and from what we have heard, it appears to have been considered very successful and interesting. For our next number Mr. W. H. Dixon has kindly promised to write an article on the proceedings with passing remarks, as he did in regard to the London Conference. The Rev. T. Barnard, M.A., the new Headmaster of the College for the Blind at Worcester, will also contribute an article on the Higher Education of the Blind, and the Rev. W. H. Mayers will probably give an account of what is now being organised on behalf of the Blind in Barbados.

HENRY. J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. The Rev. Thomas Barnard, M.A., has been appointed Headmaster of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, in the room of the Rev. Jaffray B. Nicholson, M.A., who has resigned. Mr. Barnard held the Fawcett

Memorial Scholarship at Oxford, and graduated with 2nd Class Honours in Classics, and took his M.A. degree in 1899. He was ordained Deacon in 1898 when he was Gospeller, and he was first in his examination for Priest's Orders. He has written expositions of the Psalms and several poems—one of which we gave in our last number. He was a Gardner scholar at the College to which he has now been appointed Headmaster, and he has kindly promised to contribute an article on the Higher Education of the Blind for our next number. Mr. and Mrs. Barnard hope to go into residence at the College early in September, so as to have everything ready for the students on their return in October. We heartily congratulate Mr. Barnard on his appointment and wish him every success.

2. On Trinity Sunday, June 18th, Mr. G. M. Llewellyn, M.A. and B.D., was ordained Deacon by the Lord Bishop of Llandaff, and afterwards licensed to the Curacy of the Garn Valley, Glamorganshire. Mr. Llewellyn was "Gospeller." At this ordination also, the Rev. J. H. Gordon Smith, B.A., Curate of St. Catherine's, Pontypridd, Glamorganshire, was advanced to the Priesthood. Both these blind men had their early education at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester.

3. The Rev. John Swinnerton, a former student of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, took his M.A. degree at Oxford, on May 4th.

4. Mr. Wilfrid A. Schofield has recently passed Moderations and was specially complimented on his work by the examiners.

5. We heartily congratulate Mr. Kenneth C. Macartney, who was a Gardner Scholar at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, on being the first to be elected to the "George Barker Memorial" scholarship, tenable at Queen's College, Oxford. It is of the value of £50 a year, tenable for four years. Mr. Macartney has passed Responsions and goes into residence in October next.

6. Mr. Albert Robbins, A.R.C.O., a Gardner scholar of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, has been appointed Organist at Rowington Church, near Warwick.

7. Mr. Percy Way, a former student of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, has been appointed Organist at Christ Church, Albany Street, London.

8. In Mark Hambourg's extra recital given at Queen's Hall, London, on June 28th, he played a composition by Mr. Horace Watling, A.R.C.O., Gardner scholar at the Royal Normal College for the Blind.

9. The Rev. A. Tansey, who is blind, is willing to preach on behalf of any Institution or Society for the Blind, provided that travelling expenses and hospitality are provided. His address is Market Rasen, Lincolnshire.

10. Captain G. G. Webber, R.N., who has been Secretary of the School for the Blind, Upper Avenue Road, London, for 20 years, has resigned his post. Captain Webber has done much good work in the School besides starting a Braille Printing Press and also *The Hampstead Magazine*, published monthly in Braille type. To show how the Institution has prospered under his management, it is sufficient to say that on his appointment the industrial receipts amounted to only £50 a year and now they are about £600 a year. We regret to hear that he is resigning on account of health, but our best wishes go with him and we trust that he may soon recover his strength, now that he is relieved of the responsibility entailed by the important post he held. We are always sorry to hear of the resignation of those who have worked cordially with us in the same cause for many years. Mr. T. H. Martin, who has been superintendent of the School for Handicrafts for Boys, Chertsey, for 14 years, has been appointed Captain Webber's successor and will take up his duties before this number is published.

11. We much regret to have to announce that Miss Lohr has resigned her post as Librarian of the Incorporated

National Lending Library for the Blind, Queen's Road, London, W. Mrs. Lord has been appointed in her place.

12. On May 8th the Mayor of Accrington presented Mr. James Townson with an illuminated address and a cheque for £55 on his resignation as Secretary of the Accrington and District Society for helping the Blind. Mr. Townson has done good service for the blind for 30 years, and we are glad to know that he still remains Treasurer of the Society. The address, which is very handsome, with the coat of arms of Accrington in one corner and of Haslingden in another, and a representation of the Good Samaritan, and of an attendant on the sick, in the others, is as follows:—

“Sir,

The friends of this Society have learned with regret of your retirement from the position of Hon. Secretary, which you have occupied alike with advantage to the Blind and credit to yourself since its inception 30 years ago, and they cannot permit the present occasion to pass by without expressing their high appreciation of the services you have rendered to the most unfortunate and necessitous section of the community. For more than a quarter of a century you have ministered with untiring zeal and devotion to the comfort and improvement of those who suffer from the greatest of all physical disabilities—the loss of sight—and who are under a lasting debt of gratitude to you as their benefactor. Your many untiring efforts to secure pensions and grants from the London Charities for the Blind—in helping them to obtain a means of livelihood—in the formation of a library of embossed type books, thus affording access to intellectual pleasures—these will ever be recalled with grateful remembrance by the 78 blind persons of Accrington, Haslingden, and surrounding districts. We ask you to accept this address and purse of gold which accompanies it, as a very inadequate recognition of your unselfish devotion to the public weal.

On behalf of the subscribers,

W. H. RAWSON,

Mayor of Accrington.

Mr. Stevenson has been elected Secretary in Mr. Townson's place.

13. Miss Willoughby has resigned her post as Lady Superintendent at the Barclay Home for blind girls, Brighton, and Miss Dowker has been appointed in her room.

14. By the death of Mr. John Briggs and Mr. F. N. Moore the Hull Blind Institution has suffered a most serious loss, and the Blind of that district have lost two sincere friends.

Mr. John Briggs passed away at the ripe old age of 82, on Sunday, April 9th, and Mr. Moore the following Saturday 15th, at the comparatively young age of 44.

Mr. Briggs was the original Hon. Secretary to the "Hull Society for teaching the blind to read in their own homes" founded in 1864, and it was mainly through his energy that the Workshops as a branch of the said Society, were commenced in 1868, when he, together with eight other of the leading citizens (all of whom with the exception of Mr. Jos. Atkinson, J.P., have long ago passed away) appealed to the public for the modest sum of £100, out of which the present Workshops and Institution developed. The number of baskets sold the first year, 510, and in 1904, 13,689, shows the steady development of so small an enterprise. Business engagements compelled Mr. Briggs in 1870 to retire from the post of Hon. Secretary; but since then up to his death, he remained an active member of the Committee, being re-elected as recently as March last.

Mr. F. N. Moore was an invaluable adjunct to the Institution. Losing his sight when only 18 years of age, he received a thorough training at the Nottingham Blind School, and was elected in 1880 as reader and instructor to the Hull Blind. It is not too much to say, that his whole life was devoted to the one object of assisting and benefiting his fellow afflicted brethren, ever trying to improve their condition; and his wise counsel, and appropriate remarks on most topics discussed at the London Conference in 1902, will doubtless be remembered and valued by those who took part in the various subjects. He was held in the highest esteem by all those with whom he came in contact.

15. The Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham,

has lost two tried friends. Mr. Gibson who was the chief member of the choir, and principal bass for many years, died on May 27th, and Mr. W. G. Taylor, who had been music master for 17 years, died on May 30th. Mr. Taylor was Bandmaster of the South Notts Hussars for nearly 30 years, and during all that time had never missed a camp before this year. He was also Organist at the Roman Catholic Cathedral. He was much esteemed, and took great interest in instructing the Blind in music.

16. There is no time to give in this number a full account of the Conference, but as we have stated in the Editorial, we hope to do so in the October number. We wish to mention, however, that several of the papers read, and the speeches made, were far above the average, and we are of opinion that the method of collaboration adopted for the first time in drawing up the papers has proved most successful. The exhibition of goods made by the Blind was excellent and reflects great credit on the superintendents of the various Institutions. The demonstration of type-writing, of knitting machines, and of massage by the Blind, was most attractive and interesting to many. The receptions by the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh and Glasgow were well attended and much appreciated, and the managers and superintendents of the Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dundee Institutions did all they could to give the members of the Conference a hearty welcome and all necessary information, and entertained them most hospitably. There were two excellent concerts, one at the School at Craigmillar, and the other in the large Conference Hall, where many well-known talented blind players and singers kindly gave their services. In fact, the Conference went with a swing and heartiness that never flagged from first to last, and everybody must feel indebted to Mr. Pine, the Hon. General Secretary, and to Mr. Stott, the Hon. Local Secretary, for all their ready kindness and real hard work in carrying out the necessary details, on which success so much depends. An official report of the proceedings will be printed as soon as feasible, and copies, price 2s. 6d. each, can be obtained from Mr. Pine, Institution for the Blind, Chaucer Street, Nottingham.

The following Committees were appointed by the Conference:—1. Committee for organising the next Conference: Miss Bainbrigge, Messrs. Barnes & Bryden, Rev. Thomas Burns, Dr. F. J. Campbell, Mr. Collingwood, Sir John Cranston, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Miss Hornby, Messrs. Illingworth & B. P. Jones, Miss Moon & Messrs. Munby, Pine, Plater, Stainsby, Tate, and H. J. Wilson. 2. Committee to consider the problem of a better and more general employment of the Blind: Mr. Faulkner, Liverpool; Mr. Hewitt, Belfast; Miss Heywood, Manchester; Rev. St. Clare Hill, Leatherhead; Mr. Macdonald, Dundee; Mr. Pine, Nottingham; Mr. Priestley, Bradford; Mr. Purse, Manchester; Mr. Stainsby, Birmingham; Mr. Stoddart, Glasgow; Mr. Stott, Edinburgh; and Mr. H. J. Wilson, London.

17. On June 26th there was a large gathering of residents in Preston, at the Homes for the Blind, Fulwood, at the Prize Giving Festival. In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, the chair was taken by the Vice-President, Mr. W. Ascroft, J.P. The proceedings consisted of a well rendered concert and recitations by the children, of whom there are 48 in the Home, of the distribution of prizes by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, and the usual votes of thanks and speeches. Mr. Ascroft stated that much of the excellence of the work accomplished in the Institution was due to the careful organisation of their Secretary, Lieut-Col. Jolly, and to the kind sympathy of their lady superintendent, Miss Halliday. Subsequently after tea had been provided, the children showed samples of their work, and the adjoining workshops where eight men are employed in skip and basket-making, and three women in cane-seating, &c., were inspected.

18. H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, presided over a General Meeting of Subscribers to the Barclay Home for Blind Girls, Brighton, on June 8th, held at 24, Park Lane, London, by kind permission of Lord and Lady Brassey. The chair was taken by Sir Francis Mowatt, G.C.B., and on the motion of Mr. W. H. Champion, C.B., seconded by Dr. Ranger

it was resolved unanimously to purchase No. 21, Wellington Road, at a cost of £1,200. It is estimated that the necessary adaptation and furnishing of the premises will cost £800 in addition. The purchase of this house was completed on June 24th, and with Nos. 23, 25, and 27, Wellington Road, the freehold property forms an entire block of buildings with nice spacious gardens, and room for extension, if necessary, in future years.

19. There has recently taken place a most gratifying and noteworthy development of the work of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society. Our readers will remember that this Society had under its care a Home of Rest for the Blind, at St. Anne's. This was quite a small place, sufficient at first for the required purpose, but of late becoming more and more insufficient for it. While the committee were anxiously considering this perplexity, the residuary legatees of the late Mr. Godfrey Ermen generously offered to give a site for the purpose of building a new home, and also to undertake its erection. It is needless to say that this splendid offer was most gratefully accepted, and the Home was built in Roe Lane, Southport, the foundation stone being laid by Miss Heywood, the Hon. Sec., on May 11th, 1904. The opening ceremony took place on Tuesday, May 16th, by Dr. Chavasse, Bishop of Liverpool, and was attended by a large number of residents. The architect was Mr. John Brooke, who built the new Manchester Royal Infirmary, and the Home appears to have been thoroughly well planned for the purpose for which it is required, and to be noticeable for its brightness, convenience, and truly home-like aspect. There are large windows admitting plenty of light, a most wise and sensible arrangement, not many people being aware that the Blind suffer more in their health from want of light than do the sighted, owing to their vitality being lower and thus more easily depressed. The Bishop having unlocked the door of the Home with a silver key, entered the central hall with the words, "Peace be to this House and all who shall dwell therein," and then proceeded with a short service of dedication and an address in

which he dwelt upon the duties of the sighted to the Blind, and prayed Almighty God to make that Home a peaceable habitation and quiet resting place for those who should dwell therein. The Home of Rest can accommodate 15 men and 15 women and the charge is 6/- a week for Manchester and Salford blind persons, and 10/- a week for those residing outside that district. We hear that the Home is fire proof and most comfortable, bright and airy, and is a real home in every sense of the word. This was only to be expected when it was known that Miss Isabel M. Heywood was supervising the arrangements. Miss Longbottom has been appointed matron.

20. A meeting to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Home for the Aged Christian Blind Men and Women, 77, Hanley Road, London, N., was held at the Home on June 1st. There was a Service at 3.30 p.m., an inspection of the Home at 5 p.m., and the Annual Meeting under the Presidency of the Mayor of Islington at 7.30 p.m., in the Jubilee Hall, when the adoption of the Report was moved by Mr. Henry J. Wilson. The property consists of eight freehold houses, the Jubilee Hall, and a laundry, which cost £13,000 in all and is held by trustees in perpetuity for the benefit of the Blind. There are at present 113 inmates in the Home, and one of them is 102 years of age. There is accommodation for 127, and the Home, in which the electric light has been installed and telephonic communication with the Fire Brigade, is quite free from debt. There is also a seaside Home at Southend. The Committee, and especially Mr. and Mrs. Bright, the founders, are to be much congratulated on having firmly established a Home for so many aged blind persons.

21. The report of the British Braille Committee has been printed and presented to the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, and to the Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association. The Committee propose three grades as follows:—

GRADE I.—To be uncontracted, or rather to admit only such contractions as are commonly used in books for the sighted.

GRADE II.—Moderately Contracted Braille, to correspond to the Braille now in use. This Grade is the one in which in the opinion of the Committee the majority of ordinary books should be written or stereotyped.

GRADE III.—Advanced Braille. This is intended for those who have attained considerable proficiency in reading and desire still greater compression than is afforded by Grade 2. The Committee's proposals for this Grade will be issued separately.

Whatever views we may take of the report, we must acknowledge that the Committee is a very representative body, and that they, and especially the Chairman, the Rev. A. Taylor, M.A., have most unselfishly devoted much time and labour on a most difficult and perplexing subject. The long and arduous work, which the drawing up of the report has entailed, deserves the sincere thanks of all those interested in the matter. As the question is purely technical, and as we do not claim to be experts in Braille, we are unable to pass an opinion on the report, but we congratulate the Committee on the completion of their labours after nearly three years continuous work.

22. Mr. H. D. Black, of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, has received the following most satisfactory letter about a student who was trained at the College in shorthand and type-writing :—

“Dear Sir,

I have special pleasure in replying to your enquiry respecting Miss Lizzie Holroyd.

She has now been with us nine months as Typist and Shorthand writer. From my personal knowledge of her ability before she came to us, I had no hesitation in recommending her appointment, but she has exceeded my highest anticipations. As an indication of the Committee's appreciation of her services, her remuneration was increased after four and a half months' service.

There has been no kind of typing we have required that she has not been able to do, and as rapidly as a sighted typist would have done it. Whilst it may be regarded a disadvantage that a

blind typist cannot undertake other office work, even that has its compensation, and in most large offices there is more typing than can be done by one person.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed), GEO. GAUNT.

Secretary of Education,

Education Offices, Peel Street, Huddersfield."

Mr. Black wrote about Miss Holroyd's work, because he thought that if it were satisfactory, there might be an opening for another of the College students in a similar position elsewhere, and the reply elicited is that given above.

23. The Workshops for the Blind, 171, Wednesbury Road, Walsall, to which we referred in our last number, paragraph 20, were opened by Mrs. Slater, of Bescot Hall, on Monday, 10th July. After the opening, the visitors adjourned to the residence of Mr. Archibald Slater, where a meeting was held under the presidency of the Vicar of Walsall, the Rev. A. Paice. Mr. Stainsby, of Birmingham, addressed the visitors, and the Hon. Secretary gave a history of the scheme, and appealed for £320 which were still required to enable the Committee to claim £50 promised by Gardner's Trust. The Workshop is situated between Walsall and Wednesbury, and is intended to meet the needs of both towns. At present three blind men from each town are employed at basket-making. The Committee are to be congratulated on a very successful start.

24. The following most satisfactory letter has been received by the Superintendent of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, about Mr. F. W. Perrin, a blind typist, who was a Gardner scholar at the Institution, and began work on October 4th at Messrs. Riley & Co., dealers in pianofortes and musical instruments. They had had no previous connection with the Institution, which renders the testimonial all the more valuable, and Mr. Perrin was placed in the situation solely on his own merits.

18th April, 1905.

"Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 17th inst., I am pleased to say that Mr. Perrin is still with us, and that I find him diligent, and reliable in every way as a Shorthand and Typewriting Clerk. The experiment of a blind clerk has been perfectly satisfactory, notes from dictation being taken on the Shorthand Machine with perfect freedom, and reproduced in type with perfect style, accuracy and despatch, reflecting very highly upon the system inculcated at your Institution.

I should have no hesitation in recommending anyone requiring a typist to try one of your pupils.

Please make any use you desire of this letter.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY RILEY."

25. The Home for the Blind, at 9, Gordon Road, Clifton, is to be known in future as "The Clifton Blind Women's Home." The inmates have been transferred there from the old Home in Aberdeen Road, and are very happy and comfortable in the new premises, which have a delightful garden.

26. The Committee of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind have decided to carry out extensive alterations to the Main Institution, involving an expenditure of at least £3,000.

27. The following books have been lately published by the "Moon" Society: "Bible Teachings in Nature," by Dr. MacMillan, in 5 vols., each 3/6; "Noble Life," by Mrs. Craik, in 3 vols., each 3/8; "Divine Forgiveness," 1 vol., 1/2; "St. Mark's Gospel in Armeno Turkish," 1 vol., 3/6.

The following have been re-stereotyped: "The Book of Leviticus," 2 vols.; "The Book of Ezekiel," 3 vols.; "The Life of Lincoln," 1 vol.; and Sacred Poetry, in 2 parts.

28. We recently received a letter from Mr. Yoshimoto,

from Japan, and we are sure that his many English friends will be glad to know that he is now quite recovered from his serious illness. He reports that on April 17th about 1000 blind men and women from all parts of Japan held a meeting in Tokyo, which was addressed by several members of Parliament and by a professor of the Tokyo Medical College, and several resolutions were proposed and carried—one to the effect that everything should be done to improve their education, and another bringing pressure on the House of Commons to pass a law making massage a monopoly for the Blind. This proposal has been submitted to Parliament and seems likely to pass.

29. Miss Dora Bulwer has kindly sent us the following particulars; The 1901 census of Italy gave 38204 blind, *i.e.*, 1182 to each million of inhabitants. Blindness is less frequent in the north of Italy than in the south; the highest proportion of blind is in the Island of Sardinia, 2783, and the lowest is 619 in the Veneto. There are 21199 male blind, 17201 female and 196 blind mutes. In every 1000 blind there are 16 under 7 years, 48 from 7 to 15, 156 from 16 to 40, 433 from 41 to 70, 345 above 70 years and 2 age unknown. All the blind mutes are illiterate. Of the blind between 6 and 15 years of age, 26 out of each 100 are literate, the average is about 20 per cent.

30. In our last number, paragraph 34, we referred to the Blind in Barbados, and we have since heard from the Rev. W. H. Mayers that a large and enthusiastic meeting of the friends of the Blind was held on June 20th, when several resolutions were passed promising support and encouragement to the scheme for the amelioration of the condition of the Blind. Mr. Mayers is anxious to know whether any lady, preferably a Brailist, will kindly act as "commissioner" in England for the special purpose of working up the cause of the Blind in Barbados. His address is, St. Matthew's in St. Michael, Barbados, West Indies, and he will be glad to hear from any lady who will devote most of her spare time and talent in this much needed and urgent work.

31. The Rev. St. Clare Hill, Principal of the School for the Blind, Leatherhead, Surrey, issued invitations to an afternoon

concert, which was held at the new Schools on July 12th. After the concert there was an exhibition of the pupils' work. We regret that we were unavoidably prevented from accepting the kind invitation, but not long ago we had the pleasure of being shown over the new buildings by Mr. Hill. The buildings are very well planned, and all the arrangements, educational and sanitary are well up-to-date. There is also a very fine chapel and hospital. The School is well situated in several acres of ground, on which also stands the Principal's house.

32. The Annual Prize Festival of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind at Upper Norwood, was held on Thursday, July 13th, and was of even more interest than usual, owing to the fact that their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught were graciously pleased to honour the College with their presence on the occasion, accompanied by their daughter, the Princess Patricia. On arrival they were met by Lord Howard de Walden, President of the College; Lord Aberdeen, Lord Belhaven and Stenton, Dr. and Mrs. F. J. Campbell, and several members of the College Committee, and conducted to the music room, where a short, but highly effective concert was given. The organ recital by Miss Emily Lucas, F.R.C.O., had previously been much appreciated by the visitors who assembled to hear her, and a feature of great interest during the performance was the execution of a Tarantelle, specially composed for the occasion by Mr. H. F. Watling, A.R.C.O., one of the College students, and played as a duet by the composer and Mr. James Crowley, A.R.C.O. This Tarantelle, by gracious permission of the Duchess of Connaught, was afterwards dedicated to her. At the conclusion of the concert their Royal Highnesses inspected the Gymnasium, the Armitage Swimming Bath and the Skating Rink, and then proceeded to the large marquee for the presentation of prizes by the Duchess. The Duke, who was in the Chair, made a short speech, in which he expressed his admiration of the noble work he had just witnessed being carried on in the College, and his deep sympathy with the efforts that were being made in the endeavour to help those not blessed with the precious gift of

sight. After this, purses were presented to her Royal Highness the Duchess, amounting to £1,850. Sir Henry Craik then gave the annual Address, and referred to the College as a beacon-light to all those engaged in the training of the Blind, principally from the thoroughness which was the watchword of that work, and the noble ideals held up before the students to form character and encourage independence. The Duchess of Connaught then graciously presented the prizes to the successful students, and after the usual votes of thanks, the proceedings terminated with the singing of one verse of the National Anthem. The weather during the afternoon was all that could be desired, and the Prize Festival of 1905 will long be remembered as an unqualified success

INSTITUTIONS.

Birkenhead. The report of the Birkenhead Society for the Blind for the year 1904 is published and shows that early in the year there was an anxious time for the Committee, as owing to two large shipping contracts which the Society had obtained, the blind teacher had to move out of the building so as to provide more room, and extra hands had to be engaged. It was found also that a capable sighted superintendent was necessary and the reconstruction of the management of the shop was essential. Mr. Stoddart, of the Glasgow Blind Asylum, spent several days in Birkenhead, and gave the Committee most valuable advice on these matters. The sale of goods amounted to £378 and £306 were paid in wages.

Bristol. (a) The Annual Meeting of the Asylum for the Blind, Queen's Road, Bristol, was held on May 2nd, when the Lord Mayor of Bristol presided and the report for the year ending December 31st, 1904, was adopted. The numbers benefited during the year were 92 pupils (54 boys and 38 girls) and 35 out-workers and out-pupils. A Hostel has been opened where 20 older pupils, or girl out-workers, and 2 mistresses can be accommodated. The girl out-workers pay only 5/6 a week for board and lodging, including medical attendance and washing. On the recommendation of the Inspector the boys and girls are

grouped together for class teaching. Sponsors are obtained for ex-pupils and materials at cost price are supplied to them. The Institution will probably be moved to another site in the neighbourhood as soon as the Bill now before Parliament becomes law. The sales amounted to £1848, and £542 were paid in wages to the Blind. The legacies amounted to £1245.

(b) The annual meeting of the Association for Home Teaching and Industrial Employment of the Blind, 65a, Park Street, Bristol, was held on March 22nd, when the High Sheriff of Bristol presided and the 46th annual report was adopted. The sales amounted to £691, the saleswoman, who goes from town with her basket of work done by the blind girls, having taken about £200 more than last year, and £284 were paid in wages to the Blind.

Carlisle. The 33rd annual report of the Workshops for the Blind of Cumberland and Westmorland for the year ended November 30th, 1904, refers to the unusual depression in trade and a loss of £284 on the year's trading. It was presented at the annual meeting held on January 23rd, when the Mayor presided. The sales amounted to £2,070. There are 21 blind persons employed.

Leatherhead. The 105th annual report of the School for the Indigent Blind, Leatherhead, Surrey, for the year 1904, gives a history of the Institution from its foundation in 1799, and draws attention to the fact that stock amounting to £19,000 had to be sold in order to pay for the completion of the new buildings at Leatherhead, and the factory at 250, Waterloo Road. In the factory 36 old pupils are employed in basket, mat and brush making, and received £1,497 in wages during 1904. The School is full on the boys' side, but there are a few vacancies for girls. Eliza Wagstaff, one of the pupils, obtained the degree of A.R.C.O. £4,015 were received in legacies. There is a West End Depôt at 491, Oxford Street. There are several Annuities attached to the School.

London. (a) The 42nd annual report for the year ended January 31st, 1905, of the South London Association for assisting the Blind has been issued and shows that its

object to improve the social and religious condition of the indigent Blind has been carried out by the holding of classes for instruction in reading, of devotional classes, and by granting pensions and loans, &c. There are 144 members of the Association and the classes meet in Walworth, Brixton and Kennington. During the year 124 loans, amounting to £124 5s. 6d., were granted, in sums varying from 5/- to £3.

(b) The report for 1904 of the Blind Class held at 188, Ebury Street, London, S.W. states that there are 64 members, and that the class meets every Tuesday afternoon under Mr. Watson, a blind leader, when an hour is spent in Bible reading and prayer, and an hour in instruction in reading and writing in Braille.

(c) The annual report of the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, W., for the year 1904, refers to the loss of an important contract for brushes, which the Association had obtained for about 40 years previously. An appeal was made to commemorate the jubilee of Miss Gilbert's work, and resulted in obtaining only £116 for a Samaritan Fund for relieving special cases, and for a Pension Fund. On December 31st there were 103 blind persons in receipt of benefit from the Association. The sales amounted to £11,990, and £2,082 were paid in wages to the Blind, £377 in special gifts, £318 in supplementary wages, and £291 in pensions.

(d) The 67th annual report of the London Society for Teaching the Blind to Read, 10, Upper Avenue Road, London, N.W., was presented at the annual general meeting, held on April 29th, when the Mayor of Hampstead presided. There were 66 pupils (38 boys and 28 girls) on the books of the School during 1904. The sales amounted to £545 in the industrial department. £974 were received in legacies, and £127 in the embossing department.

Manchester. The 65th annual general meeting of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, was held on February 15th, when the report for 1904 was received and adopted. On December 31st there were 182 inmates (109 males and 73 females). These

figures include 49 boys and 38 girls. The sum of £1,033 was distributed amongst the deserving Blind. Fifty-two blind persons have been regularly employed in the outdoor workshops, and £1,518 paid to them in wages. The sales amounted to £6,533. Reference is made to the appointment of Mr. W. H. Illingworth as Superintendent, of Mr. J. M. Ritchie as Schoolmaster, and of Miss Elsie J. Grant as Matron.

Norwich. The report of the Asylum and School for the Indigent Blind, Magdalen Street, Norwich, for the year 1904, shows that at the close of the year there were 16 males and 12 females in the Technical Schools, 5 males and 10 females in the Asylum, and 9 non-resident journeymen, making a total of 52. The Institution has entered on its centenary year, having been founded in 1805. The sales amounted to £646, and £191 were paid in wages to the journeymen.

Sheffield. The annual general meeting of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind, was held on March 13th, when the Lord Mayor presided, and the report for 1904 was approved. The school has been quite full, viz.: 35 boys, 35 girls; 14 pupils were presented for the Incorporated Society of Musicians' examination in singing, piano and organ, and all passed, two taking honours. Twenty-eight men, ten women, and one learner are employed at the workshops. The sales amounted to £3,119, and £788 were paid to blind workers as wages, and £126 as bonus. £164 were spent on the Overend Cottage Home, and £74 distributed in relieving necessitous blind persons.

Wakefield. The annual meeting of the Wakefield and District Societies for the Blind was held on January 18th, when the Mayor was in the chair and the fourth annual report for 1904 was submitted. The new Institution, which is a central building, where club room, workshops, library, meeting rooms and sale room are all under one roof, was inaugurated on November 22nd. There are on the books 70 blind persons, of whom 10 (six men and four women) work at the Institution regularly and six more complete orders at their own homes. The wages paid to the Blind amounted to £97, and the sales to £208.

Wolverhampton. The annual meeting of the Wolverhampton Society for the Blind was held at the Workshops, 17, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton, on May 17th, when the Mayor presided, and the 30th annual report for 1904 was adopted, and subsequently tea was given to 125 blind persons. There are 166 blind persons in the district, and 137 are on the register and visited regularly by the Home teacher. The sales amounted to £1,398, and £442 were paid in wages to the Blind. The Horsman Fund provides assistance to old and deserving persons.

OPENING OF THE NEW KINDERGARTEN BRANCH SCHOOL, HARBORNE, BIRMINGHAM.

Although the above School has been practically in working order for some time, we took no note of it until its formal opening, which took place on Wednesday, June 7th.

The growth of the General Institution for the Blind, Carpenter Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, and the necessity of accommodation for more pupils, caused the Committee to call together the Governors on 7th December, 1898, and lay before them a proposal to build a Branch School, where 40 little children could be housed and taught. The suggestion was unanimously adopted by the Governors, and the Committee, of which Mr. E. M. Goodman, the grandson of the first treasurer, was then Chairman, set to work to find a suitable site, there being no room for further extensions on the land occupied by the main Institution in Carpenter Road. An admirable site of nearly ten acres was secured at Harborne, the Vendor selling it to the Committee on highly advantageous terms. In consequence of the South African war it was deemed advisable to defer making an appeal for funds, but when the war was over energetic measures were taken to raise the necessary amount, and owing to the liberality of many friends the sum of £15,300

has been raised out of the necessary sum of £18,750, the total cost of the Kindergarten School and land. A balance of £3,450 has therefore still to be raised, and it is earnestly hoped that the generosity of the public will make this possible. The foundation stone was laid by the then Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, Mrs. Hallewell Rogers, on 30th July, 1903; under the stone was deposited by Mr. George Edwards a jar containing the following articles:—(a) a map of Birmingham, showing the site of the new School, (b) The last Annual Report of the Institution, (c) The appeals for funds for the Kindergarten School, (d) The invitation card and programme relating to the stone-laying ceremony, (e) Specimens of the work of the little children for whom the Kindergarten was intended, (f) Specimen of shorthand for the Blind and typewritten transcript. The School has been built and equipped on the most approved principles, the committee's aim being to combine efficiency and economy. The building is so arranged as to give the maximum amount of light and air, and most of the children's rooms are on the south side. These consist of class rooms, play rooms, dining room, dormitories, sick and convalescent wards, cloak and boot rooms, lavatories, bath room, linen rooms, etc. There is also the necessary accommodation for the officers, the teachers' bed rooms being located between the children's, so as to give supervision at night. Great attention has been given to the proper warming and ventilating of the building and to all the sanitary arrangements. The architects were Messrs. J. A. Chatwin and Son, and the contractors, Messrs. Collins and Godfrey. The School is the first building of its kind erected in the United Kingdom, and is well worthy of the motto "Forward" of the city which contains it. The ceremony of opening the School was held in a marquee in the girls' playground. Mr. Arthur L. Lowe, Chairman of the Committee, presided, and the Lady Mayoress of Birmingham kindly undertook the chief performance of the day. Others present were the Lord Bishop of Birmingham, Sir Oliver and Lady Lodge, Canon Mansfield Owen, etc. Two remarkable letters of apology for non-attendance were read from the chief Inspectors of the

Board of Education. Dr. Eichholz wrote :—" Much to my regret, I find myself unable to be present at the opening of the the Kindergarten Branch School, Harborne, on June 7th. I have, however, paid a visit to your new buildings, and it is a pleasure to me to be able to congratulate your Committee on the completion of a building which is in my experience quite unique in the matter of equipment and arrangement. You are now in a position to make the most successful experiment in the training of younger blind children which has yet been possible in this country, and I need not say that you have my heartiest good wishes in your work."

Mr. C. H. B. Elliott wrote :—" The new Kindergarten School has made an excellent beginning, and I sincerely congratulate the Committee on having provided a building so perfect in every particular. It will greatly facilitate the still further development of the admirable work which Birmingham has done for the Blind for so many years."

The Rev. Canon Mansfield Owen, Chaplain of the Institution, having offered prayer, Mr. Lowe, in requesting the kind offices of the Lady Mayoress to declare the school open, said that the new school would immensely help forward the education of the Blind in rendering it possible to train them almost from infancy. They would be taken in from five years old and upwards, and this would in many cases prevent the enforced idleness in which too many of these children spent their early childhood. Now they hoped to be able to train them to lives of usefulness in the world. He appealed confidently for funds to free the school from debt, there being still £3000 to raise. The Lady Mayoress then, in a short and graceful speech, declared the building open and hoped the children would find new happiness in their lives, and grow up to be good men and women. Mary Jane Robinson, the youngest pupil in the school, had previously presented her ladyship with a lovely bouquet. The Bishop of Birmingham (Dr. Gore) moved a vote of thanks to the Lady Mayoress and dwelt on the immense importance of proper education to these sightless little ones, who ran the risk of growing up deformed in the faculties of mind and body unless

properly taught and cared for from their earliest years. Such an institution should be supported in every possible way. Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, in seconding the vote of thanks, endorsed the Bishop's remarks about the advantage of getting hold of the children at as early an age as possible, and said that the Birmingham Institution was the pioneer in typewriting and shorthand writing for the Blind, thanks to the inventive genius of their excellent Superintendent, Mr. Henry Stainsby, who for more than a quarter of a century had devoted his best powers of body and mind to the cause of the Blind. Sir Oliver Lodge then moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, saying that he felt we might all be called blind, and that probably we were surrounded by higher beings to whom we seemed so, for our faculties were excessively limited. Still we should be in a far worse position without our organs of sight, and the object of the Institution deserved the most widespread sympathy. The vote of thanks was seconded by Mr. E. M. Goodman, who did so much to establish the School. The Chairman then invited the visitors to inspect the new buildings. After this had been done they returned to the tent for tea, during which the little children gave a concert, excellently rendered. Souvenirs of the opening of the School were distributed. They were exceedingly pretty and had clear and interesting photographs of the School. Mr. George Edwards, with his usual liberality, presented a Dulcitone to the school for the use of the little children, and Donald Sparrow, aged 4, played a solo on it when the visitors were at tea. A very pretty little tea service made in bead work by the children was presented to the Lady Mayoress by one of those who helped to make it. There was a very large number of people present at the meeting and the arrangements were excellent. The Committee are to be warmly congratulated on such a successful inauguration of a model School, replete with all the necessary educational appliances, and planned on the most scientific sanitary principles. By the kindness of Mr. Stainsby we are enabled to give a picture of the School, as a frontispiece to this number.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 32.

OCTOBER 20TH, 1905.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 23rd, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

With this number, the eighth year of the publication of this brochure is completed, and we trust that it has been of some service in the interests of the Blind. We wish to make it as interesting and instructive as possible, and to that end we shall be pleased to consider any criticism or suggestion that may be offered. There are still a few Institutions and Societies which do not favour us with copies of their Annual Reports, and we appeal to them to do so, not only to enable us to give reliable information about such societies, but also to enable us to place the reports in the Library of the Gardner Trust, for reference at any future time. We are anxious to make the collection of reports of the different Institutions as complete as possible.

It may be but the voice of one crying in the wilderness, but as we have to study so many reports and balance sheets, we venture to make two suggestions, which are applicable to some—in fact only a few—of the reports of Institutions, but we think they are of considerable importance. First, whether it is not possible to have the reports printed and circulated within say three months at most from the date on which the financial year ends; and second, that it should be made quite clear in the

statement of accounts how much is paid to blind workmen, exclusive of sighted labour. The term "wages" is not sufficiently definite, and we think that the public are entitled to know how much the Blind receive for their work, for it is solely for their benefit that the Institutions were founded and are supported. Having now relieved our feelings on these two points, we would draw the attention of our readers to the three interesting special articles in this number, kindly written by the Rev. Thomas Barnard, M.A., the Rev. W. H. Mayers, and Mr. W. H. Dixon, M.A. These articles make this an exceptionally large number—in fact, the largest yet printed by four pages.

The subscriptions for 1906 are now due, and we shall be much obliged if intending subscribers will kindly fill in the enclosed order form, and return it to us at their earliest convenience. The price is 1/2, post free, for a single copy of each of the four issues in 1906.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. Just on going to press, we have heard with much regret, of the death of the Rev. T. W. Sharpe, C.B., late Senior Inspector of Schools. He took a great interest in the Blind, and read a paper at the Conference in 1902.

2. The Rev. W. S. C. Palmer, former student of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, was ordained Priest on September 24th, in the Diocese of Llandaff, and Mr. J. F. Warden, also a former student, was ordained Deacon on the same day to the curacy of St. Mark's, Shiremoor, in the Diocese of Newcastle.

3. Dr. Corbett has been appointed professor of music at the Institution for the Blind at Nottingham. He was a pupil at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, and at the age of 14 was appointed organist and choirmaster at Christ Church,

Wellington. He is a Doctor of Music (Cambridge), and a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. He is the only blind man who has taken the degree of Doctor of Music, and he was the youngest man on whom such degree has ever been conferred. He has held several important appointments as organist, viz., at St. Andrew's, Derby, and at Holy Trinity, Bournemouth, and has composed several songs.

4. In July last, the first King's Scholarship Examination for the Blind ever held in Scotland took place in Edinburgh. Two candidates, the Misses Adams and King, were presented from the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmiller, and both succeeded in passing in the First Class.

5. The only music scholarship of £60 awarded by the Lancashire Education Committee has been won by Alfred Wrigley, a pupil at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, and of the five music exhibitions, one was won by Timm, who is also a pupil at Henshaw's. We congratulate these pupils on their success, and also Mr. Illingworth, superintendent of the Institution. The scholarships were open for both sighted and blind candidates.

6. Messrs. Novello & Co., the well-known music publishers have recently purchased the copyright of a musical composition by Mr. F. W. Priest, A.R.C.O., a Gardner Scholar at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind. The piece is a pastoral in D, for the organ.

7. Mr. J. Moldenhawer, the well-known Director of the Royal Institution for the Blind at Copenhagen, resigned his post on October 1st, after having held it for 47 years. He has published a History of the Institution since its foundation in 1811. We wish Mr. Moldenhawer many years of quiet rest after his long and valuable work on behalf of the Blind.

8. The Rev. A. Tansey, to whom we referred in our last number, paragraph No. 9, is doing duty at Scunthorpe Parish

Church until Christmas. He was previously a missionary in Canada, in connection with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and lost his sight about $3\frac{1}{2}$ years ago.

9. Mr. James Moore, who is blind, and has been organist at Bottesford Church for nearly 46 years, has compiled a Catechism of Music for the use of the Blind. Miss Challands has transcribed it, and written a preface to it. The book has been sent to the Midland Institution for the Blind, where Mr. Moore was educated.

10. Our readers will regret to learn of the death of Miss Julia Wickham, which took place at Fyfield, Berkshire, July 28th. She had been an invalid for years, but the end came most unexpectedly. Miss Wickham took a deep interest in the Blind, especially in those studying at Oxford, and for their use she wrote from 70 to 80 volumes in Braille. When the late Mr. Barker announced his intention of reading for honours in the School of English Language and Literature, she adapted Braille to the Gothic and Anglo-Saxon languages, and copied out numerous works in these tongues—works which are now in the free library at Oxford. So anxious was Miss Wickham for the settlement of the “contractions” question, that with her own hand she embossed Tolstoi’s pamphlet on the Russo Japanese war, using the abbreviations approved in the report of the “British Braille Committee,” and circulated the brochure among a considerable number of the Blind. This was done in order to test the value of the recommendations. In fine, those who knew her best will realise that they have sustained an irreparable loss.

11. Mr. J. P. Kruger, of the Institution for the Blind, Worcester, South Africa, is himself totally blind, and yet he made the entire journey to Edinburgh, in order to attend the Conference, without any companion, and has now returned home, also by himself. He took an active part in the Conference, and subsequently visited several of the Institutions for the Blind. His most remarkable independence of sighted

aid and the facility with which he adapted himself to his surroundings, were noticed by all.

12. Mr. Joseph Hall, Hon. Secretary of the Swansea Institution for the Blind, is anxious to obtain Nos. 1 and 26 of "The Blind." Can any of my readers oblige him, as both numbers are out of print? If so, will they please write him direct, at Grosvenor House, Swansea.

13. Miss Blott, 30, St. Charles's Square, North Kensington, London, W., receives blind ladies and gentlemen as boarders. There is a good house and garden, and a large supply of embossed books. There are at present two vacancies. We have known Miss Blott for more than 20 years, and we feel sure that she would take every possible care to insure the comfort and happiness of the residents. Her references are many, including the Bishop of Ripon.

14. Lady Algernon Percy, who is much interested in the Blind, invited a deaf and blind girl at the Nottingham Institution for the Blind to visit her at her delightful old residence, Guy's Cliffe. When the girl arrived she found some lovely flowers, which had been placed in her room by Lady Algernon Percy, so that she might enjoy the sweet scent with the sense of smell which still remained to her. On one occasion the girl remarked that there was no cross on the altar of the private chapel, although there really was one, but it was too high for her to feel. When she returned to the school she was much pleased to receive from Lady Algernon Percy an ebony cross with the words "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard" embossed on it in silver in Braille.

15. The editors of the "Weekly Summary," Eltham, Kent, have published a large Braille type text book, without contractions, for beginners. It is called "Guiding Light," and has a text for every day in the year. They have also published raised maps of Africa for the Blind: (1) Physical Features; (2) Political

divisions; and for both of these there are appropriate and useful guides. The books are prepared with much care, and should prove of great benefit to the Blind. The "Weekly Summary" is a well-known newspaper in Braille, published every Wednesday, and has been much appreciated by blind persons for more than thirteen years.

16. Miss Moon, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton, informs us that she proposes to publish a monthly magazine in Moon's type, commencing January next, provided that she receives promises from a sufficient number of subscribers to enable her to do so. The magazine will consist of twenty pages of general information and a serial tale.

17. When the King and Queen visited Manchester in July last, and were the guests of Lord and Lady Derby, Miss Isabel Heywood wrote to Lady Derby, and pointed out to her that the Blind were deprived of seeing their Majesties in the procession through the city. Miss Heywood's letter was placed before the King and Queen, and they graciously sent the following sympathetic letter, written by Lord Knollys, to the Blind of Manchester, through Miss Heywood. The letter was read to about 600 blind persons, who had been kindly invited to a picnic in the grounds of Claremont, where Miss Heywood resides. "I have submitted to the King and Queen your letter to Lady Derby, and I am commanded to ask you to express to the 600 blind people belonging to Manchester and Salford, the gratification which their Majesties felt at seeing them on the occasion of their recent visit to those towns; and the deep regret of the King and Queen that, through the interposition of Providence, they on their side were unfortunately unable to see their Majesties."

18. Twelve ladies in Forfar have learned Braille, in order that they might write for the Blind, and they are now bringing out a monthly magazine, and have called it "Excelsior." They also varnish and bind it themselves. Many of the pieces are written by the ladies, on their own experiences in travel, etc.

19. The directors of the Edinburgh Royal Blind Asylum and School have decided to carry out extensive alterations at West Craigmillar, not only from a health, but from an educational point of view. There is urgent need of more dormitories and a new laundry. The estimated cost is £15,000, and it will take about two years to carry out the plans. The proposed improvements to the workshops in Nicholson Street, at a cost of £2,500, have been postponed.

20. The new house, No. 21, Wellington Road, Brighton, recently purchased for an extension of the Barclay Home and School for the Blind, has now been adapted for its special use. The basement is to serve as a playroom. Miss Dowker, whose appointment as Lady Superintendent we mentioned in our last number, has resigned, and Miss Stephenson, who was a sister in one of the wards in the London Hospital, has been appointed in her stead.

21. The new Braille Library, started by the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, was opened on September 27th by Sir William Houldsworth, Bart., M.P., and is open for the whole of the north of England. Already five Corporations subscribe £3 3s. a year for the use of books for the Blind in their respective towns, and it is hoped that many more Corporations, Societies, and individuals in the north of England will avail themselves of the benefits of the Library. The Southport Home, an off-shoot of this Society, has received many happy visitors during the summer. It will be open all the winter, and there is special accommodation for one or two blind ladies and gentlemen.

22. The following books have been added to the Oxford Free Public Library; St. Anselm's "Cur Deus Homo," and Bright's Early "English Church History" (from the landing of Augustine to the death of Theodore.)

23. The Report for 1904 of the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind, 125, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W.,

gives some interesting facts about the Library. Reference is also made to the removal to the new quarters from Hampstead in September last year, and to the continued increase of members. Thirty-seven Institutions and Associations are now supplied with books, and seven Free Public Libraries, viz.: Grimsby, Dundee, York, Eastbourne, Preston, Westminster and Camberwell. There are nearly 8,000 volumes in the library. Eleven blind writers, who earned £61 by their work, produced 130 volumes. and over 403 volumes have been contributed by voluntary writers. The report contains a catalogue of the books in the library.

24. At the July Examination for Pianoforte Playing of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, four candidates from the East London Home and School for Blind Children, 2 and 4, Warwick Road, Clapton, passed, viz.: 3 in Grade II., and 1 in Preparatory Grade. During the past three years, 18 music certificates have been gained by the pupils, several taking honours.

25. The 1st report of the Institute for Massage by the Blind, 74, Lancaster Gate, London, W., for 1904, has been published, and states that there are now over 30 fully qualified operators holding first-class certificates. Reference is made to the urgent need of a Central Institute or Home, where all business could be transacted and a few of the blind operators lodged. There are several letters in the report, and the writers strongly recommend the blind masseuses whom they have had to operate on them. Mr. John Tennant has been appointed Hon. Treasurer in the place of Mr. F. O. Smithers, who has resigned.

26. Christmas and New Year cards in Moon's type are now ready, and can be obtained from Miss Moon, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton.

27. *The Braille Weekly* is a newspaper published every Saturday, price 1d., by post 1½d., by the Braille Printing and Publishing Co., 24, St. Giles Street, Edinburgh. It was started last July.

28. Many of our readers may not have heard of the most unexpected treatment meted out to Messrs. Norris and Mc'Intosh in the Australian Commonwealth, and therefore we cannot do better than quote a leaderette in the *Manchester Guardian* of August 22nd, in reference to this proceeding, which caused two men so much inconvenience and vexatious interference:—

“In a speech at Lancaster last Tuesday, the Bishop of Perth, Western Australia, said that, for good or ill, legislative power in Australia had passed into the hands of the working classes. Had he gone on to comment on the methods they had adopted, we imagine he would have had no difficulty in condemning some of them. We learn from a letter in a recent number of *Progress*, a Braille magazine published by the British and Foreign Blind Association, that the writer, a blind gentleman residing at Mackay, North Queensland, took a return ticket by sea, for himself and his attendant, to Brisbane, the capital of the State. On his arrival there, wishing to visit Sydney, he applied for return tickets at the office of the same shipping company, but was refused, on the ground that if the company landed any afflicted person in New South Wales they rendered themselves liable to a fine of £100. An application to another shipping company was attended with the same result. Then the would-be traveller, Norris by name, applied to the Premier of Queensland, who telegraphed to the Premier of New South Wales, who, on being assured that Mr. Norris was not likely to become burdensome to the State, sent a permit allowing him to land in Sydney. To add to the absurdity it may be added that Mr. Norris is a native of Sydney. For some weeks past the Australian mails have brought accounts of an even worse case. Mr. Mc'Intosh, a blind Glasgow merchant travelling for pleasure with his daughter, was not allowed to land at Hobart until he procured a bond for £100, although he intended to stay only three weeks in the Commonwealth and held tourist return tickets from England which included a visit to Japan. Mr. Norris ends his letter to *Progress* with the following significant words: ‘This will show what sort of reception blind or afflicted people may

have if they attempt to enter the Commonwealth of Australia.' There are now in England many blind Australians, either partially or wholly self-supporting, who upon their arrival would have been sent back to their native land if our Statute-book had been defaced by such laws as those recently enacted by the Commonwealth."

The two men were detained under the Federal Immigration Restriction Act, and we understand that the Commonwealth Prime Minister was very indignant at the stupid interpretation of the Act by a Customs officer in the case of Mr. Mc'Intosh, and promised to bring the matter to the notice of the Minister of Customs.

29. The following poem was writren by Mr. John Wilson, who is a native of Dunfermline. He was a plumber by trade, and lost his sight by an accident in his work. He is now in the United States of America, and is earning his living by selling groceries:—

The fool saith in his heart, " There is no God,"
Although he breathes the breath that God hath given,
And plants his footsteps on the very sod
That's nourish'd by the sun and dew from Heaven.

No God! Absurd! Who studs the starry sky
With planets that we cannot comprehend?
Who paints the rainbow's lovely form so high;
Such perfect shades no human skill could blend.

Who gave the life from whence all grandeur springs?
Who rules the universe of our abode?
And who makes nations tremble that have kings
Who rule empires without the fear of God?

No God! Then who sustains the life at will,
And showers the sunbeams on the morning dew?
Reviving nature with infinite skill?

If not the God above, then answer—Who?

Who tints the forest flowers and gave them birth?
And beautifies all nature in the spring?
And who taught man his mission here on earth,
But God omnipotent, the eternal King?

He rules the elements for all mankind,
Distils the rain that gladdens flower and tree.
He moves in mystery to the human mind,
Performing all by His divinity.

30. A fund is being raised for a memorial to the late Mr. J. P. Thomasson, who was formerly M.P. for Bolton, and a sum of £4,000 has already been promised. We are pleased to hear that the memorial is to take the form of a residential school for the Blind and Deaf at Bolton.

31. The late Mr. George Walthew left £500 to the Stockport Institution for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, and also one-third of the residue of his estate, provided that the Institution be henceforth called the J. and G. Walthew Institution for the Blind, the Deaf and the Dumb.

32. A Home for Blind Women, in connection with the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Mission to the Outdoor Blind, was opened on June 28th, at 348, St. George's Road, Glasgow.

33. Letters from Lake Nyasa, British Central Africa, tell of a school for native blind children being started at Kota-Kota, by Bishop Trower, of the Universities' Mission. Miss Fage, the lady Principal, qualified for the post before leaving England, and had thirteen pupils in April last.

34. We have to acknowledge, with many thanks, the receipt of several papers and reports from the United States, including (a) statement prepared for the use of the State Board of Education, Massachusetts, 1905; (b) 4th annual report of the Trustees of the Perkins Institution upon the work of the instruction of the Adult Blind at their Homes; (c) a brief account of the work of the Perkins Institution, supplemented by an article on the education of the Blind, written by Michael Anagnos; (d) Books and Libraries for the Blind, by Dr. Robert C. Moon, Secretary Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society and Free Circulating Library for the Blind, etc.

35. Early orders should be sent to the Editor of the "*Weekly Summary*," Shere, Sussex, for the Japanese Calendar for 1906, in Braille, price 1/3 post free, and for some excellent Christmas Cards.

INSTITUTIONS.

Birmingham. The 58th annual meeting of the General Institution for the Blind, Edgbaston, Birmingham, was held on July 24th, when the Lord Mayor of Birmingham presided, and the report for the year ended March 31st, 1905, was submitted. The number of blind persons directly benefited during the past year were 660, of whom 170 were resident pupils, 68 day workers, 371 adults, 10 teachers, etc. 19 pupils were assisted on leaving the Institution by grants of money, amounting in the aggregate to £123, and £2,417 were paid to the blind workers. The sales amounted to £8,379, and £477 were paid to blind workpeople in excess of the commercial work done. Willow-peeling has been started as a new industry for the Blind, and seven men will be employed for a portion of the year. The type-writing department is very successful, and during March, 1905, the value of the work done amounted to over £40.

Bolton. The annual meeting of the Bolton Schools and Workshops for the Blind was held on May 8th, when the report for the year ended March 31st, 1905, was adopted. During the year 19 blind men, and 5 blind women, have been employed. The sales, which amounted to £2,252 have increased by over £200 in the brush department. A shop has been opened at 65, Knowsley Street. The wages, presumably including those to 7 sighted persons, amounted to £962.

Bradford. The 44th annual report of the Bradford Incorporated Institution for the Blind, for the year 1904, was adopted at the annual general meeting held on February 21st. During the year, 80 blind persons have been employed, of whom 32 have been employed in brush-making, and 29 in knitting and chair-caning. The sales amounted to £10,914, the wages to £2,049, and £351 was paid in excess of the commercial value of the work done. There is a blind collector. Annuities were paid to 24 blind persons from the Harrison Fund, to 4 from the Queen Victoria Fund, and to 3 from other Funds.

Cardiff. The annual meeting of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind was held on March 15th, when the 40th annual report, for the year 1904, was adopted. The sales.

amounted to £2,424, the wages to £1,030, and there was a bonus of £37. The sum of £35 was paid out of the Shand Memorial Aid Fund to blind annuitants.

Dublin. The annual report for 1904 of the Richmond National Institution for the Instruction of the Industrious Blind, 41, Upper Sackville Street, Dublin, founded in 1810, was presented at the general meeting of subscribers, on May 1st. At the close of the year there were 32 men and 2 women inmates, who are maintained gratis, and are instructed in a trade, and 31 out-door workers. The wages, &c., to the out-door workers, who are provided with working clothes, amounted to £970. There is a Pepper Endowment Fund, of which the dividends amount to £955 a year.

Greenwich. The annual report for 1904 of the Workshop for the Blind of Kent, 49, London Street, Greenwich, S.E. states, that 21 blind men have been steadily employed, that the sales amounted to £1,461, and the wages to workmen to £710. It was necessary to sell out a sum of £500 Stock to meet liabilities. There has been a serious falling-off in the sale of heavy cane baskets.

Leicester. The 46th annual report of the Leicester Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 50, Granby Street, Leicester, was presented at the annual meeting held on May 25th. The legacies amounted to £800. The blind workers received £749, including £127 given in addition to their actual earnings. Constant employment was provided for 33 blind persons (17 men and 16 women). There were 212 persons on the register of the Home Teaching Branch, and 4 blind women reside in the Cottage Home.

Liverpool. The annual report for 1904 of the Catholic Blind Asylum, 59, Brunswick Road, and Yew Tree Lane, West Derby, Liverpool, was read at the annual meeting, held on June 15th. At the close of the year there were 198 pupils. There is a mortgage debt of £8,900, and the subscriptions, only £142, show a large falling off. The Committee call for increased support, as it "is the only Catholic Blind Asylum and School in England."

London. The 33rd annual report for the year 1904 of the West London Workshops for the Blind, 60, High Street, Notting Hill Gate, W., refers to the attractive re-construction of the shop front, of which a photograph is given. There was a deficit of £464 on the trading account, and the nett deficit was £273, which is about the amount of the ever recurring deficit. The number of workpeople employed was 39, the sales amounted to £1,619, and the wages (apparently including those for sighted persons), to £904. Supplemental wages, amounting to £172, were paid to the workers. One of the partially blind workers has been appointed collector.

Northampton. The report for the year 1904 of the Northampton and County Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, states, that 18 blind persons are now employed, that the sales amounted to £1,470, that 4 blind pensioners receive 2/6 a week from the George Phillips Trust; and that £692 were paid in wages. There is a Blind Sick Benefit Society.

York. The Annual Meeting of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, was held on May 12th, when the Dean of York presided, and the 67th annual report for the year 1904 was presented. On December 31st there were 72 pupils (47 boys and 25 girls) in the school. A sum of £46 was granted to former pupils, and of £177 to former pupils, the aged and other blind persons. The trade sales amounted to £4,138, and the wages, salaries and supplements, paid to the Blind for work done, amounted to £1,312. There are 9 women in the Industrial Home at Scarborough.

THE EDINBURGH CONGRESS.

It is customary in France to speak of one who is concerned with matters appertaining to the Blind as a "typhlophile." No English word adequately expresses the idea, for a "typhlophile" is a friend of the Blind, whether himself blind or not. The

Conference which met in Edinburgh some four months ago was, then, a genuine gathering of "typhlophiles."

When, on April 25th, 1902, the members of the last Congress dispersed, the question was naturally asked, had it really done anything? For it was the first *regular* assembly of the sort. The thoughtful public will hardly be in doubt as to the answer, once they have had an opportunity of reading the full account of the Edinburgh proceedings. Even in 1902, it was clear that there were many who had determined that the Conference of that year should not end in talk, for they elected a Committee to arrange for a similar convention in the future—*i.e.*, for the Convention which is the subject of this article; and I learn that the great majority of the members of this Committee were present at all the preliminary meetings, at which the arrangements were discussed.

The gathering was announced as an International Congress. There were therefore present representatives from the British Colonies, the United States, and the Continent of Europe; but why, after all, was the number of strangers so small? Was it that no papers were read by persons from abroad, or did the distance of Edinburgh from the seat of government act as a deterrent? One thing at least is certain, that those who did come were accorded the hearty welcome which they deserved.

It would be absurd, in a short survey, to attempt a complete account of all that was done in the Scottish capital.

The Conference opened on the evening of June 18th, with a service in Lady Glenorkie's Church, Roxburgh Place. The large congregation must have been very favourably impressed by the enthusiasm with which "Lift up your heads" was sung by the choir of the Blind School, West Craigmillar, and the brilliancy with which Mr. Wishart, an old pupil, played his part on the organ. The Rev. T. Burns gave a most eloquent address, but, whilst ready to agree with him as to the credit due to Europeans for what they have done on behalf of the Blind, one is disposed to ask that the Japanese should not be forgotten, seeing that, before the advent of Western ideas, the Japanese Blind enjoyed a monopoly of massage. At a religious service

held the following evening, the Rev. — Davidson also delivered a most inspiring discourse.

By this time, large numbers of delegates had begun to arrive, and on the evening of the 19th, hundreds of persons gathered in the Central Hall, Tolcross, to see the goods made by and for the Blind, which were there being exhibited. The object of the exhibition was the ventilation of new ideas. It is to be hoped that in the future this fact will be so thoroughly grasped, that duplicate exhibits may not be admitted, so as to leave room for private persons who have ideas to ventilate. At the same time, it must be admitted that a most interesting collection was shown. Curiosity was, perhaps, centred mainly in the looms which were being worked by girls from the Barclay Home, Brighton, and the Nottingham Institution. The Chinese Stall attracted considerable notice, and Miss Gordon-Cumming expatiated on the wonderful work done by Mr. Hill Murray, in adapting Braille to the language of the Celestial Empire.

The ordinary meetings of the Congress began with prayer, offered by the Rev. J. White, of South Leith Parish Church, after which a welcome was extended to the delegates by the Lord Provost of the City. Lord Haddington delivered a Presidential Address, and other formal business was transacted. By this time some three hundred persons had assembled in a hall so large that those at the back could not well hear what was being said. When will an audience learn to come to the front of a half-filled hall?

The subject of the first paper was "The Primary Education of the Blind," and it very soon became evident that we were not condemned to listen to the opinion of mere individuals, however responsible. In other words, those who arranged the Conference had taken a hint from the Brussels Congress, and in most cases the readers of papers were asked to embody the best expert evidence on the subjects with which they were to deal. On this account, the "transactions" will be a most valuable book of reference, but, such an arrangement made it absolutely impossible for the readers of papers to keep within the time allotted to them. This was felt to be so serious an evil that it was decided to print the papers at future Conferences before the discussions

in question should come on. If this plan comes into operation, the writers of papers will have no time-limit at all, and the Blind delegates will not have a fair opportunity of reading the matter to be discussed. The difficulty might be got over by asking the reader of a paper to open the debate in a speech, in which case the chairman need not be so scrupulous in the use of his bell as in the case of something written beforehand.

Three points stood out in Mr. Stainsby's paper. (1) The Blind are best trained in special boarding schools, as they are brought more directly under the eye of the teacher than in day classes. (2) All other things being equal, blind teachers should be appointed. That this view was backed up by a majority in the Conference cannot be too strongly insisted upon, as an ill-founded idea has got abroad among the Blind that a conspiracy exists for the purpose of ousting blind teachers. (3) It is extremely difficult to get properly trained sighted teachers.

A difference of opinion was expressed on this point. Some asserted that the ordinary training colleges ought to make the teaching of the Blind a special subject, and should even allow some of their students to reside for a time in blind schools; whilst Dr. Campbell maintained that a well-trained, skilful teacher of the Blind could be easily initiated into special methods.

In the afternoon, the chair was taken by the Rev. T. Burns. The first paper, read by Mr. W. H. Illingworth (Manchester), dealt with "Higher Education, with special reference to the Act of 1902." Admirable as his remarks were, they, in some points, overlapped what had been said in the morning's discussion. He, however, raised a subject upon which, in this age of social problems, reams of paper and much breath are sure to be spent. He declared that the State ought to step in and maintain the Blind whilst learning a trade. This question, under a different heading, was more ardently debated on the following day.

Mr. Illingworth also pleaded that more encouragement should be given to the Blind to learn string and wind instruments. He discounted the argument that the learners would thereby become street musicians, any more than their learning to read

would make them street readers of the Scriptures. It is rather strange that speakers did not appeal to experience on this head. It is quite true that very few blind readers earn their living in this way, because most persons are capable of learning to read ; whereas many blind violinists, flautists, etc., play in the streets because their talent is a special one, but not sufficiently so to render them able to obtain concert engagements. It were to be wished that Dr. Campbell had made some reference to this question.

No one ventured to doubt the assertion, made in the course of this paper, regarding a sixth sense possessed by the Blind. Much interest has been taken in this so-called sixth sense, but it would seem to resolve itself into a special development of the auditory nerve. For instance, it is probable that an obstacle is perceptible to a blind man on account of the resistance of the air.

The management of the whole Congress was so admirable that criticism of detail appears almost out of place ; but was it not surely a mistake to read, as the second paper of the afternoon sitting, the last report of the British Braille Committee ? All that was necessary was a short account of how that body had come into existence, with a reference to the difficulties with which its members had had to contend, and an announcement of their determination to submit their report to the Gardner Trust Committee and to the British and Foreign Blind Association. The ratification of their proceedings by the Conference would then have been easy.

What actually happened was the reading, by Mr. Pine (Nottingham), of a highly technical document, which even the Blind failed fully to grasp, because it was not under their fingers. The delegates were bewildered by "contrary" motions, the one re-appointing the Committee, the other implying gratitude and disbandment. The meeting refused to carry either ; but two days afterwards, those assembled vetoed an idea of compromise with the upholders of American Braille, in spite of the authority of such men as Dr. Campbell and Mr. Illingworth.

If no good came of this discussion, no harm appears to have

been done. The British Braille Committee well deserved the thanks accorded to them by the Conference, and we may rejoice that their report has since been adopted out of doors.

It was unfortunate that such a small audience heard Mr. Hollins' most delightful organ recital, given at 6 o'clock p.m.; but this could not have been helped, on account of the sudden and unavoidable change of the hour at which it was to have been held. As for the civic reception in the evening, one need only say that it was as cordial as the Lord Provost and Corporation of the Modern Athens could make it.

On the following morning (June 25th) deliberations were resumed, with Lieutenant-Colonel Colquhoun in the chair. As the Conference was taking place in Scotland, it was fitting that we should have an authoritative declaration of Scottish opinion on some of the subjects raised; and the choice of Mr. Colin MacDonald, of Dundee, to say something about "The better Employment of the Blind," was a wise one. If a readiness to speak be proof that one is convinced of the importance of a subject, the "Employment of the Blind" was by far the most important topic brought before the Congress; for the paper bearing upon it was followed by twenty-four speeches, and the discussion lasted till late in the afternoon. This whole gathering, indeed, has been referred to by one of its promoters as an Employment Conference.

Mr. MacDonald urged that many of the Blind could partially, but not wholly, support themselves, and demanded that the State should step in to supply the deficiency. Most, but by no means all, of the members present, were prepared to agree with him. The Rev. T. Burns feared that if the aid of the Exchequer were invoked, a principle would be admitted which was capable of unlimited extension.

The greater part of the speeches were taken up with suggestions of various methods of employing the Blind, such as cigar making, massage, etc., but it was evident that many of these occupations would not fully maintain those engaged in them. At the same time it was pointed out that far too little zeal was shown for piano tuning. The Rev. P. T. Bainbrigge

doubted whether the Blind could be successful as choir masters where boys had to be trained, and it is to be regretted that the Conference was unable to hear the experience of a blind man accustomed to train a surplined choir.

The questions raised at this session were deemed to be of such importance that a Committee was finally appointed to enquire into the causes of the evils complained of, and to discover how far it was possible to remedy the same.

In the afternoon, Mr. Norwood (York) read a paper on "The best means of calling into existence a Central Bureau of Information with regard to matters pertaining to the Blind." Mr. Tate had, three years ago, asserted that such an organization was needed, and at the opening of this Conference had expressed a hope that, when once it had been established, it would be taken over by the State.

Mr. Norwood had before him a very delicate task, for it was evident that one society was doing some of the work which Mr. Tate sought to be done. Whether any existing association would be prepared to find markets for goods made by Blind Institutions, or even to compile the register of the Blind, is quite another matter, but no one would ask us to run before we could walk.

In any case, those who listened to the paper saw no harm in instructing the Conference Committee to ask the Committee of Gardner's Trust to undertake some of the work ; in the event of their declining it, the British and Foreign Blind Association was to be approached. As the members of the Gardner Trust are strictly limited as to their legal powers, it is very doubtful whether they would feel themselves justified in doing such work. It therefore appears likely that, in so far as the idea is practicable at all, its realization will be placed in the hands of the B. & F. B. A. And why not ? When Dr. Armitage founded the Association, did he not intend that it should collect information as to the best means of educating and employing the Blind, and disseminate that information as widely as possible ? If discussion of this subject has done nothing else, it has at least emphasised, with growing clearness, to the friends of

provincial institutions what the B. & F. B. A. has done and what it is willing to do.

At 7 o'clock the members of the Congress were photographed in the grounds of the Blind School, West Craigmillar. The photograph is a very good one, but there was, unfortunately, a great number of absentees. Later in the evening a delightful concert was given by the pupils of the School, to whom Lord Haddington gave a brief but most affecting address.

In order, no doubt, that the members of the Conference might be quite fresh for the heavy business of Friday, the 23rd, its members were given a holiday on the previous day; but lest they should suffer from that restlessness which results from absence of occupation, they were taken on a trip to Glasgow. When arrived in that city, their first visit was made to the Blind School. The extent to which the funds at the disposal of the management are made to benefit 280 persons within the walls of the Institution would astonish any but a Scotsman. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the work was the electric sewing machines, at which were seated women who seemed as if they had handled these machines all their lives, though, as a matter of fact, the latter had only been in operation a few days.

From the Institution a visit was made to the Cathedral and the Municipal Buildings. The Lord Provost, in a few well-chosen words, gave the visitors a civic welcome, which was none the less cordial because it was official.

On the following day the work of discussion was resumed, with Sir William Turner in the chair—a fitting compliment to the University of Edinburgh, which is represented on the Committee of the Blind School by Professor Seth and Sir William.

The first subject for deliberation allowed one to see what had been done, in one department at least, as a result of the Conference of 1902. On that occasion a paper had been read by Mr. (now Professor) C. S. Loch, on "The Problem of the Defective Blind." The state of this class had been deemed sufficiently appalling to lead to the appointment of a committee to take it into consideration. Their report, issued rather more

than a year ago, resulted in the foundation of a school for defective Blind boys at Stormont House, in London.

The paper which Mr. Wilson, Secretary to the Gardner Trust, read at the Edinburgh Conference, had reference to the above-mentioned report. He advocated the establishment of a few "Defective Blind" Schools in different parts of the country, and pleaded for the more humane treatment of adult members of the class under consideration.

It was interesting to hear the experiences of Miss Bryan, the Head Teacher of Stormont House. It is evident from her remarks that what is called defectiveness often results from the minds of children having been neglected by injudicious parents. She herself has already succeeded in passing four boys into ordinary Blind Schools. The worst cases are put to manual labour almost exclusively, and it is astonishing to note the proficiency to which some of them attain. Miss Bryan made the usual complaint of an insufficiency of teachers.

Other speakers pointed out the necessity of separating these children from normal boys and girls, and of having schools for each sex; whilst the hard lot which adults endure, when, by entering the workhouse, they undergo the taunts and gibes of the other inmates, was strongly insisted upon.

This matter having been laid to rest, a great deal of formal business was transacted. The most important matter was the election of committees. Mr. Warren, of Nottingham, asked whether the Employment Committee would be allowed to recommend State aid, and declared that, if this was the case, he would oppose the election of the whole body. He was reassured on being told that its members would have a free hand.

There was no difficulty in the re-election of eight out of the nine members of the Conference Committee, but matters were very nearly brought to a deadlock by an attempt to have various interests represented on the said Committee. This resulted in its enlargement from nine to eighteen members. It may be well that the claims of Scotland, Woman, Ireland, and the National League of the Blind, should not be forgotten; but it is surely more important that we should have a Committee whose members-

possess the greatest facilities for arranging a Conference. It is easier to convene an assembly of eight than eighteen; it is also easier to come to a meeting if you reside in England than if you contracted the habit of living in Scotland. Of course, there can be no doubt of the efficiency of the Committee in question; but one may express the hope that the next Congress will not add to its difficulties by adding to its members.

Upon the resumption of public business, Mr. Frew Bryden, of Glasgow, read a paper on "The Outdoor Blind of Scotland." He astounded the English members of his audience: (1) by telling them that the whole blind population of Scotland was on the books of the various Home Teaching Societies, *i.e.*, that Scotland already possessed its register of the Blind; (2) that the various societies formed a union, *i.e.*, a little bureau of information; and (3) that the reading of the blind pupils was stimulated by competitions.

Home teaching in England is sporadic in the extreme; the Rev. A. Tansey, indeed, confessed that not a stroke of work had yet been done for the Blind of Lincolnshire.

It was obvious that little discussion, in the ordinary sense of the word, could take place respecting Mr. Bryden's paper. The auditors on that occasion could do little more than learn; but one of them afterwards told Mr. Bryden that the Society which he represented was ready to take part in any attempt likely to be made to extend the Union of Scottish Home Teaching Associations into England. Some amusement was caused by Mr. Ness's declaration that his Committee received very few applicants for the pensions which they had to distribute. Mr. Bryden and the greater part of the audience appeared to regard this as an unusual case.

At the last Session Sir Colin Macrae took the chair, and Mr. W. H. Tate (Bradford) read the final paper on "Boards of Guardians and their relation to the Blind." He said that thousands of sightless persons were under the care of the Guardians, but the latter, though well meaning, seemed to be in a state of bewilderment through ignorance of their powers. The result was, that vast numbers of the Blind were spending dreary

lives in our workhouses. They were without occupation, and were subject to the tender mercies of broken-down criminals, with whom they were herded, and who took advantage of their helpless position. Mr. Tate urged that the public conscience should be aroused, and that those now in workhouses should be put into Homes.

Dr. Ranger (London) pleaded especially for the women, but he drew a distinction between the impotent blind with, and those without character, for the latter of whom he declared the workhouse to be the only possible habitation. It is at least to be hoped that those who listened to what Mr. Tate had to say, will enquire into the condition of the Blind poor in their respective districts.

A delightful concert, in which various Blind artists took part, and a day spent at the fine Institution for the Blind in Dundee, concluded the Conference, whose proceedings had lasted for exactly a week, from the 18th to the 24th of June.

The Blind owe a warm debt of gratitude to the Earl of Haddington for acting as President, and to all those who took the chair at the various meetings; to the civic representatives of Edinburgh and Glasgow, whose welcome to these great centres was so hearty; to all those other persons, whether blind or seeing, who made every item of the work so easy of accomplishment; and, finally, to the Committee, without whose intelligent co-operation there would have been no Conference at all.

And now, to come back to the old question: Has the bringing together of all these people achieved anything? Much, truly. Many persons, who came with the idea that they had grievances, have gone away with the certainty that they have none. The real, though limited, utility of Blind teachers has been demonstrated. The definite position of more than one organization has been exhibited to the world. The inculcation of secondary education, the provision of employment, the spread of home teaching, have all entered upon a new stage. This, surely, is no bad record for an International Conference.

WALTER H. DIXSON.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

BY

REV. T. BARNARD, M.A.,

*Headmaster of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind,
Worcester.*

It is indeed a sad day in any home when it is discovered, with cruel certainty, that the most promising, or, perhaps, the only boy, must live his life partially, or even totally, deprived of that seemingly indispensable requisite for success, that apparently essential means of enjoyment, the faculty of sight. Little though he may realise his own loss, to the loving hearts whose life is bound up with his happiness the future will appear to have nothing but disappointment in store, and their most cherished hopes will seem blighted for ever. It will not be long, however, before the sting of this sorrow will grow less keen, something like feelings of resignation will take the place of despair, and happy will it be if the God-given hopefulness of human nature re-asserts itself, and the wise determination is arrived at that the future shall be faced in a trustful and courageous spirit, and that everything shall be done which forethought can devise and persevering effort can accomplish, to enable the blind boy to carve out for himself a bright, useful, and, if possible, distinguished career.

It has often been suggested that when the faculty of sight is taken, other gifts are bestowed by a wise Providence to compensate the sufferer. This suggestion contains a large element of truth, but the method of stating this truth will never satisfy any but the most superficial minds. I would rather say that everyone is endowed with a far greater number of gifts than he usually suspects, and that the possession of sight enables him

to pass through life without ever cultivating or using them. If, however, the gift of sight is taken away, a healthy mind will almost invariably find other means of informing and expressing itself, and the concentrated effort thus involved will develop powers and capacities of which their possessors and beholders never dreamed. Thus it has repeatedly been found that blind men can enter the battle of life even better equipped than many of their seeing brethren, and that in consequence they have attained very high positions, and have filled these with ability which has commanded universal admiration and respect. So far back as the year 1711, the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge was Nicholas Saunderson, who had been blind from earliest childhood, while it is not long since the office of Postmaster-General was ably filled by a blind man, of whose name no one needs to be reminded. These are only two instances, given at random, and the experience of my readers will readily furnish quite a host of others.

Now that which has been done by blind men in the past can be achieved by them in the future, and ought increasingly to be so with the improved methods which are yearly being devised by the ingenuity of the blind and their friends. There is one thing, however, which must be sought by the parents and friends of the blind, and none the less by the blind themselves, as soon as they are old enough to understand something of their own position and the possibilities which lie open to them. This one thing needful is education, and that, the very best which can be procured; nor should any effort be spared, first to discover the particular capacities of the boy whose career is under consideration, and secondly, to afford him every possible scope and encouragement for the development of those capacities. And here I must very earnestly protest against a grave mistake which is often made by parents and others. The blind boy is frequently sent to school at a very early age with the fixed resolve that he shall follow a certain calling at the close of his school career. He is given to understand that any deviation from the course thus mapped out for him will involve the serious disapproval of his parents or guardians, and he is made to con-

form to fixed routine of study which leaves little or no room for his following any bent he may happen to have. The result is, that his school life is a time of almost unmitigated misery, culminating in disastrous failure. Then, too, there is another evil to which the blind are all too frequently a prey. It is thought that all schools for the blind are much the same as each other, and that, therefore the school nearest the boy's home will do as well as any other, as there will be less railway-fare to pay, and he can be more easily visited by his friends. Thus, often, the boy finds himself amid absolutely uncongenial surroundings, and all that he has in common with his companions is their mutual misfortune of the loss of sight. I would, therefore, insist that when a school for a blind boy has to be chosen, the special features of every likely institution, whether far or near, should be investigated, and that one selected which, after the most careful consideration, appears most likely to suit his disposition and temperament; and that he should then be sent to it, with the distinct understanding that until about the age of 16 he is to receive the best possible general education, though in the meantime every evidence of special inclination should be noted as likely to afford the most reliable data for the formation of the all-important decision with regard to his calling or profession, which will have to be made in time to admit of his entering upon any special line of study which that decision may render desirable.

Now it will not infrequently happen that a blind boy having been born in a humble walk of life, will be quite content to remain in surroundings similar to those to which he has always been accustomed, and will think himself fortunate if he can earn a moderate weekly wage, just sufficient to enable him to live comfortably as a labouring man. For such there are, of course, many excellent institutions, where the best possible training in handicrafts is given; or again, a boy may give ample evidence of considerable musical ability; and, in this case, there would be little difficulty in finding a school or college in which he may learn to turn his gifts to the best account. It will sometimes happen, however, that a blind boy has been blessed with

a cultured and refined home, and has, therefore, always moved in an atmosphere of culture and refinement. Or, perhaps, a boy of humble parentage will display a marked taste for mental pursuits, coupled possibly with a distinct aversion to manual labour, and an indifferent appreciation of music. To such the ordinary institutions for the blind, admirable as they are, can offer no attractions, and comparatively few advantages. In these, the general tone of thought, feeling, and conduct, excellent as it is by comparison, is hardly calculated to elevate and inspire a boy who is a gentleman by birth, culture, or aspiration, and his parents or guardians cannot but feel a natural reluctance to send him to a school of this kind.

What, then, is to be done for such a boy? The answer will readily be given that he should be boarded in the family of a private tutor, and thus educated with others, whether blind or seeing, of his own age; and even that the tutor himself might be blind, thus being more likely to be in sympathy with his pupil. This plan has often been followed with varying degrees of success. It is attended, however, with serious disadvantages. There is grave danger that the boy may be humoured and spoiled, that he may adopt the little mannerisms of his one master, that his mind may be unduly biassed by the opinions of his tutor, that his general views of life may become warped and eccentric, and that he may even grow up shy, awkward, self-opinionated, and hypocritical.

Than this there is a better way of educating an intelligent blind boy, and in many respects it seems to me to be the ideal way. This is, to send him to a small public school for seeing boys, and let him share in their studies and recreations to the very best of his capacities. He would thus pass through one of the Universities out into life in almost every respect the equal of his seeing brethren, and, having successfully weathered such an ordeal, he could hardly fail to adorn any profession or calling he might choose. It is obvious, however, that none but the strongest and most gifted boys could be educated in this way, and the expense involved in keeping a single blind boy supplied with literature, appliances, and special assistance sufficient to

keep him absolutely on a level with his seeing companions would be so great that none but the wealthiest parents or guardians could meet it.

This difficulty was keenly felt about the year 1866, by the Rev. C. W. Taylor, the Rev. R. H. Blair, and others, and, therefore, they founded at Worcester what is now the College for the Higher Education of the Blind. There, for the past 39 years, every effort has been made to give to blind boys precisely the same education as that which they would have received had they been able to enter an ordinary public school endowed with sight. Seeing boys are gladly received and educated with the blind, and blind and seeing are encouraged to work, play, and chum with each other, as though there were no difference between them, with the happiest and best results to all. The college is now in a commodious and well equipped building, which my predecessor, the Rev. J. B. Nicholson has already described in this paper. The effort, however, to secure this advantage has sadly drained the resources of the movement, and consequently, at the outset of my work as the new Head Master, I find myself confronted with considerable difficulties, wholly arising from the slender funds at my command. The College organ, which was the delight of my own student days, and with the aid of which the now well-known composer, Mr. W. Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac., developed his wonderful talents, has been stored away in pieces, and I am appealing to the public for money towards the cost of re-erecting it, which will entail some alterations to the room in which it is to be accommodated. Our library also requires the addition of a considerable number of embossed books, printed or hand-written in the Braille type, while we have a quantity of books in Dr. Moon's, the Roman, and other types, which we should be glad to give to any one who could make use of them. I am anxious also to erect as soon as possible a modest gymnasium, combined with a serviceable swimming bath. If any reader of this paper can help us, even in the humblest way, we shall indeed be grateful, and I can promise that any money I may receive will be turned to the very best account.

I am particularly anxious, also, to get into very close touch

with all our old students, as I feel strongly that the future welfare of the College depends very largely upon its hold on the affections of its old boys, who should always be able to turn to those in authority at their old school for the sympathy, help, and encouragement which they will sorely need at times in their efforts to overcome the many difficulties inseparable from their loss of sight. Let me assure any of our old pupils who may read these lines, that we shall be glad to hear from them at all times, that we shall always have plenty of room for them at the College, and that if they will visit us occasionally we hope always to welcome them with the hospitality which so many of us recall with delight as a leading feature of the rule of our late much-loved and honoured Head Master, Rev. S. S. Forster. It is our intention also to revive the annual Speech-Day, which has of late been an event of too rare occurrence, and we hope soon to have in the new College, gatherings which shall rival or eclipse those meetings in the historic Hall of the ancient Commandry, the memories of which are positively sacred to so many of us.

Having been particularly fortunate in securing excellent Assistant Masters, we intend to widen to the utmost extent the scope of the education given to our pupils. I am persuaded that no limit whatever should be set to the intellectual possibilities open to blind students, and I see no reason why, with the eyes and hands of others to observe and experiment for them, they should not distinguish themselves in any branch of science, mathematics, philosophy, or literature, to which they may devote their energies.

I am convinced that blind boys can master any subject they earnestly take in hand quite as rapidly and thoroughly as their more fortunate brethren, and that the very loss of sight often develops in them a power of concentration which can enable them even to outstrip many of their seeing competitors. As Mr. Forster used to say, "Give them the means and the opportunity, and they can do anything!" I am determined that all that can be done to assist them shall be done here, and I look forward with confidence to a series of achievements at all the

Universities, and in after life, which shall surpass anything which has been done by blind men in the past. There are difficulties ; but these will only stimulate us, and I trust that in the very near future our College will take the foremost place it ought long ago to have occupied among Institutions for the Blind, and that its work will be a lasting blessing, not merely to the Blind, but to all who may be privileged to come within the sphere of its ennobling influence.

WORK AMONGST THE BLIND IN THE WEST INDIES; THE MOVEMENT IN BARBADOS.

BARBADOS: THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE.

Far away from the Old World, right across mid-Atlantic, a long straggling group of islands seems to have cast loose from the embracing arm of the American mother ; and, putting our ambitious little sister-island (Barbados) in the forefront as leader, the whole West Indian Archipelago seems to be perpetually feeling after the fostering care of old world energies. But Barbados (called "little England", sometimes out of raillery, sometimes out of compliment) is, perhaps, the one island which leans most fondly to Britain. Ever since its colonization in the early part of the XVII. Century by the British, the settlers have made their home-life as much as possible like that in Britain, notwithstanding a perfect tropical environment ; and even the blacks, to a man, speak our language, and think loyal thoughts of old Britain. Events connected with the blind movement here of late days have, perhaps, made it more plain than ever how well justified this feeling is.

Just in the heart of the trade winds, and washed perpetually by the Gulf Stream, Barbados has a most salubrious climate ; and, by a wonderful system of cane-culture (the best, perhaps in

the world), this spot of coral in the ocean, 21 miles by 13 miles, manages to maintain a total population of 200,000, being 184,000 blacks and 16,000 whites of British descent. This makes a population as dense, I think, as any in the world, viz.: 1,200 to the square mile.

In the days before the sugar bounty system was adopted in beet-growing countries, sugar was a paying business. Remunerative labour could always be had by the multitude of blacks: and that deep, painful poverty which one sees in great countries in the old world was practically unknown here. Of course, poverty existed; but the climate is never guilty of that biting cold which necessitates the use of warm clothing and artificially heated houses. Of cane products and ground provision a pauper could always get enough to eat. And, in order to make the maintenance of paupers an absolute certainty, Alms-houses—well supported and looked after—were established in every parish.

Now, into these Alms-houses a blind man seldom entered. In Barbados a blind man has always been "*homo sui generis*." He has always had a welcome into every buttery in the island. Such scant clothing as is required for decency's sake he could always get for the asking. As a community, I should say that the blind have never, on the score of alms-giving at least, had any ground of complaint. One man, I am told, who had taught a dog to lead him, died some 15 years ago, leaving a good large sum of money in the Savings' Bank; and another blind man, in my own district, a professional beggar, has lately led his *third* bride to the altar! She wore white bridal costume, veil and all; he himself dressed to match. But there has been a decided change here of late.

For many years past a financial crisis has been brooding over the island, and sugar now hardly pays for its production. The pauper blind in consequence do not find that begging now-a-days is the sinecure it used to be. Householders can no longer give as liberally as before; and the real pinch of poverty is making itself felt amongst our blind.

How wonderful are the providences of God! This seeming

hardship falling on them has made them, almost to a man, feel really grateful for an organized movement to help them to help themselves. In days gone by, neither the benefactors of the blind, nor the blind themselves, ever seriously considered that a special way of dealing with the blind community was a paramount duty. They were fed, clothed, and housed—that was enough. But now, imperceptibly as it were, the alternative has been presented:—(1) Either the blind resort to the Alms-houses, as all other cripples and paupers; or (2) They fall in with the provision now being made in a special way for their benefit by a society organized somewhat after the plan of such societies in England.

Well, it is a matter of the keenest pleasure to say that the idea of the latter alternative fell on congenial soil, and the germinating of the idea, and its bursting forth into blade—only the blade!—is now an accomplished fact. *Laus Deo!* I must try and recount the way it all came about.

ORIGIN OF THE MOVEMENT.

About two years ago there came to live in my parish an educated blind lady, a native of this island. She told me that soon after she lost her sight—that is now about 20 years ago—she found the time used to hang heavily on her hands, and through the kindness of her physician she was helped to procure a Braille frame from the British and Foreign Blind Association. With much toil she acquired this dotted language; and from then on, for about 12 years, she subscribed to a large English library, and to one of the magazines. About 8 years ago her income became too slender to continue such expense; and, having no acquaintance, either here or in England, who could exchange Braille letters, she came to regard Braille as an episode of the past. After she came to my parish, I wanted to do something for her; and at last a real avenue of usefulness was opened when I saw a notice in the Quarterly Intercession Paper (issued by the J.C.M.A. in connection with S.P.G.), to the effect that a Braille copy of the paper would be sent by Miss Dora Blyth, of Hammersmith, to any blind person in circumstances which would

make a free copy acceptable. On being applied to, Miss Blyth commenced to send the paper regularly, and also further interested herself by recommending me to another great friend of the blind, Miss Beatrice Taylor, of Norwood, Secretary of the blind branch of the Sunbeam Mission. This lady, in her turn, threw herself with ready zeal into the cause, and by the spring of this year she had managed to furnish me with a piece of information which turned out to be the main lever with which we began to make the upward movement in this great cause. The fact was, there was here, all unknown to us, a widowed lady who had made the most strenuous endeavours, and had sent her promising blind daughter to Liverpool school. At the end of five years (in 1904), she was compelled through adverse circumstances to take her daughter back home, although she had hoped to keep her in England, and obtain work for her after the completion of her education. So, what appeared a disappointment to her was the means of our gain; for she was here in our midst and ready to help us when the time came for Miss Taylor (with the help of Mr. Wilson, of Gardner's Trust), to guide us to her door. Matters were arranged, and then for the first time our two blind ladies met; and, with that meeting, what had before appeared to be but a slender hope of procuring a few books for one lady, seemed now ready to blossom out into an organized plan for the blind.

ORGANIZATION OF A SOCIETY, BRAILLE, &c.

A few of the friends of the blind met and made an appeal to the clergy and others for statistical information. "Already we have associated with us," said their circular letter, "two thoroughly accomplished blind ladies prepared to afford instruction to other capable blind persons—*i.e.*, if their friends and well-wishers would furnish the books, apparatus, and class room, along with a moderate stipend for tuition."

The information was returned with readiness: Two hundred blind people in this island!—40% of this number capable in one way or other—some desirous of learning, others of working, some desirous of both.

An appeal for funds was then thought of; but before it could be published, friends volunteered a few pounds to start with. We had hoped to coax a few of our blind beggars to come and try their hand at simple work, such as wood-chopping; they came in good numbers, and almost demanded to be employed. In our list of Blind we found wood-choppers, stone-breakers, shoemakers, basket-makers, seamstresses, musicians, preserve-makers, carters, and others. Many of these had only lapsed into beggary after trying for employment and failing in the unequal battle. They were thirsting after help, to make them less dependent on beggary.

Another surprise, too, was furnished by the returns. Four "Moon" readers were disclosed, each with a book or so, which they treasured as the "apple of the eye." Some 20 or 30 years ago, a thriving blind Barbadian musician (Mr. Grenidge), since dead, visited England, and brought back "Moon," having learnt under the late Professor Swanson. He taught a blind boy both "Moon" and music. This boy (now a man), is working with us and has taken to Braille. A Minister of the Moravians (a Mr. Shields), had—be it said to his credit—procured for a promising black man a copy of a "Moon's" Gospel, and had helped him to learn. Having to provide for two devoted Braillists, we sought for and obtained two generous grants from England; one from the British and Foreign Blind Association of Braille goods, and one from the British and Foreign Bible Society of Scriptures. A lady from Harrogate procured us a Stainsby-Wayne automatic Braille type-writer. Parcels of magazines were kindly sent from the publishing offices; and so the mystery of Braille dots was soon open to eager fingers. Already we have 9 sighted students of Braille, and 6 blind, in addition to our first two Braillists. The frames are being put to good use, two having been sent to the neighbouring islands of Grenada and St. Vincent. (I think I can forecast the development of a good work amongst all the West Indian Islands, starting from Barbados as a centre). The Liverpool student has been of untold service in doing the Society's correspondence, and making carbon copies—some of the work being done in batches of 18 sheets at a time.

WORKING CENTRE.

In the hope of realizing £160 in subscriptions, which we asked for, but of which sum only the half (£80) has been as yet given, a suitable house in the town has been taken, and, under careful management, industries have been started which will, we hope, yield good profits, and enable us to keep afloat in a small way, till—in God's good time—a Home and a Training Centre is built; which may He grant! Mr. Dustow, the well-known blind Tea Agent in London, has appointed an agent here to carry on a trade in tea. Prepared cocoa is also sold. Wood-cutting is in full swing, and pays. Just a few are finding employment in the making of mattresses, baskets, joinery-work, and shoes; whilst the blind owners of donkey carts get more freighting than they can do.

I don't know if I am right to expect any notice to be taken of us by the English public, but I must now say that we owe a great debt of gratitude to all from the mother country who have helped us. We looked to her for help; and no broken reed has she proved, but a very rock of foundation. Friends in Barbados have been very kind, and continue their sympathy and encouragement up to now. A Guild of ladies take it in turns daily to visit the Centre for teaching and entertaining the blind present there. We have also the nucleus of an Intercession Guild, which, with ever increasing sympathy of true friends, will be our stand-by in the day of distress. I appeal to every heart in Great Imperial Britain. I also ask every reader of these words to reach out help to this poor community of the Blind, whose welfare was the care at first of English friends. I ask expressly for the services of one desirous of being our special and exclusive helper, who, as our Commissary, would procure all that aid which a movement like ours is dreaming of.

“I am come that they which *see not* might *see*.”

W. HERBERT MAYERS.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 33

JANUARY, 20TH, 1906.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 23rd, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

At our special request Dr. Ranger has kindly dictated, to the best of his recollection, the speech which he made on November 8th, at Bradford. As he spoke without notes, the speech, as printed, does not give his exact words, but he writes, "the headings and nine-tenths of the matter are correct." We are very grateful to Dr. Ranger for acceding to our request, and we feel sure that our readers will be much interested in reading his views on blindness and the present position of Braille.

In our next number we hope to print a portion, or the whole, of a most interesting paper on the Sydney Industrial Blind Institution, by Mr. H. Hedger, the manager. The paper was written for the Edinburgh Conference, but unfortunately, as was the case with several other valuable contributions, there was no time, nor opportunity, for reading them at any of the sessions.

It is with much pleasure that we insert a letter from Mr. H. Stainsby, of the Birmingham Institution, on the question referred to in our last editorial, and we trust that it may elicit more letters on what we deem a not unimportant subject.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. We wish to express our deep sympathy, which all our readers will share, with Dr. and Mrs. F. J. Campbell, of the Royal Normal College, at Upper Norwood, in the loss of their only daughter, aged 24. Miss Lemabel Campbell was traveling in America, when the train in which she was seated was dashed into by the Montreal express near Boston, killing twenty-one passengers and injuring thirty. The "Daily Telegraph" of November 28th says that it is believed that the danger signals were not seen by the express driver on account of the smoke from the local train, which was behind time. The deepest pathos attaches to the circumstances, in view of the fact that Miss Campbell was to have been married next Easter to a young doctor, a graduate of Harvard University Medical School. We deeply regret to have to add, that Mrs. F. J. Campbell's sister, with whom Miss Campbell was staying, was prostrated by the shock of her niece's sudden loss, and has since died.

2. Mr. A. H. Powell, of St. John's College, Oxford, has passed Moderations. He intends reading Theology.

3. Mr. Albert M. Smith, a student of the Royal Normal College, has passed Responsions, and enters St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, this term.

4. We have much pleasure in stating that at the Government examinations held last July, the following students passed at the Smith's Training College for the Blind. Mr. David Rees, Teacher's Certificate, 2nd year, and the Misses Dora Burrell and Emily Jones (1st class) King's Scholarships—all from the Royal Normal College. Miss Margaret Gardiner, Acting Teacher at the Catholic Blind Asylum, Liverpool, also passed her 2nd year's examination. The Misses Sarah Foley and Florence Springett of the same school passed the King's Scholarship examination (3rd class). Miss Lizzie Crowley, who left the Royal Normal

College last June, passed the Licentiate examination of the Royal Academy of Music in September. Mr. James Crowley, A.R.C.O., also formerly a student of the College, was appointed in November Organist of Wood Green Congregational Church.

5. Mr. Stainsby, of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, and Mr. Illingworth, of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, appeared on December 1st as witnesses before the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded, and gave evidence in regard to the feeble-minded who are blind; and at the request of the Secretary of the Commission, Mr. H. J. Wilson has sent him twenty copies of the paper which he read at the Edinburgh Conference on "The problem of the 'defective' blind and its best solution."

6. Miss Ada Hodgson, a student of the Royal Normal College, was taken on trial, as a typist and shorthand writer, by a large engineering firm at Peterborough, and is now permanently employed. The manager has expressed his complete satisfaction with her work.

We are also pleased to announce that Miss Kate Greenslade, who was a Gardner Scholar at the Royal Normal College, took up work on January 1st as a shorthand writer and typist in the office of Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

7. The following is an extract from H.M. Inspector's Report on the Edinburgh Blind Asylum: "By the appointment of Mr. W. H. Illingworth to a position of still greater responsibility in England, the Governors have lost the services of a notable Headmaster, whose skill and enthusiasm have raised the reputation of the school high. Commendation is due to the excellent manner in which Miss Dickson carried out the extra duties falling to her between the departure of Mr. Illingworth and the arrival of his successor."

8. At a concert in Bechstein Hall on December 13th, under the auspices of the Royal College of Music Patron's

Fund, Mr. Horace Watling, a Gardner scholar, played five of his twelve short Preludes for the Piano. One other prelude of the same set was recently played by Mr. Mark Hambourg at Queen's Hall. The Patron's Fund was founded in 1903 by Mr. Ernest Palmer, who gave £20,000, the income of which is devoted to the performance at concerts given for the purpose of work of British composers under forty years of age.

The following criticism is from the "Times": "Mr. Horace Watling, a pupil of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, played five pianoforte preludes of his own, some of which were charming, such as the second in D Flat, and all were ingenious and effective. Of the twelve composers represented on the programme, four were educated at the Royal College of Music, three at the Royal Academy of Music, one each at the Royal Normal College and Guildhall School of Music, and three studied privately." H.R.H. Princess Louise was present, and congratulated Dr. Campbell on Mr. Watling's success.

9. We congratulate Mr. G. H. Hamilton, late Secretary to the British and Foreign Blind Association, and now a member of the Council, on having obtained a prize of £100 and a silver cup, for the best essay on the economical management of voluntary hospitals.

10. Seven pupils from the East London Home and School for Blind Children, 2 & 4, Warwick Road, Clapton, N.E., were entered for the Theoretical Examination in connection with the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and all passed, three gaining Honour Certificates. During the past three years, 25 music Certificates have been gained by the pupils, many taking honours.

11. Mr. James E. Smith, a former student of the Royal Normal College, has been appointed, on six months' probation, one of the pianoforte tuners in the Education Department of the London County Council. There are two other tuners, who are both sighted.

12. We are pleased to hear that, owing to the untiring

energy of Mr. Alfred Hirst, an appeal made by him for donations to supplement the legacy of £50 left by Mrs. Mary Wray (v. No. 30, par. 31), has proved so successful that a Whitby Trust for the Blind has been formed. At present the total amount received is only about £360; but it is hoped that when the benefits of the Trust are more fully understood, the residents in and around Whitby will subscribe largely.

13. At the last meeting of the Committee of Gardner's Trust, it was decided that, as a general rule, only one scholarship, tenable at an University, should be awarded by them in each calendar year. By this arrangement there will always be four blind undergraduates. Intending candidates for a scholarship should apply to the Secretary of the Trust for a form of application, which should be returned before June 1st.

14. Referring to paragraph No. 12 in the last number, Mr. Joseph Hall, of Swansea, is very much obliged for Nos. 1 and 26 of "The Blind," kindly sent to him anonymously in response to his request. He would have acknowledged the receipt of them direct to the senders, if he had known their names and addresses.

15. In our last number, paragraph 10, we referred to the sad loss occasioned by the death of Miss Julia Wickham. We are pleased to hear that an appeal has been issued to raise a fund to commemorate the valuable assistance she gave to the Blind by embossing books. In the appeal it states: "Such a life of unobtrusive usefulness appears to call for some recognition, and the blind students at Oxford have accordingly decided to raise a fund for the purpose of carrying on the work which was so dear to Miss Wickham. A small tablet will be erected in her memory, but the greater part of the money collected will be invested, and the proceeds spent in the acquirement or transcription of books important but otherwise inaccessible to blind students, such books to be housed in the municipal library.

"Only those who knew Miss Wickham personally were able

to feel the full force of her personality, but it was felt that many others would like to subscribe to a fund designed to perpetuate her work." All contributions should be sent to Mr. WALTER H. DIXSON, 13, Crick Road, Oxford.

16. A very successful concert was given at Nottingham on December 4th by Miss Ada Thornewell, a Gardner Scholar at the Midland Institution for the Blind, assisted by other artistes. Miss Thornewell, who has a fine soprano voice, sang with much effect several songs, including Ardit's "A Dream of Home," Purcell's "Nymphs and Shepherds," &c.

17. At a meeting of the Local Committee of the Governors of the College for the Blind at Worcester, held at the College on December the 16th, it was unanimously resolved to purchase a new organ for the use of the students, to be erected in the dining-hall, which is to be extended so as to provide further accommodation for the annual speech day and other gatherings, and also to build and equip a suitable gymnasium, the need of which is keenly felt. Any contributions towards these objects will be gladly acknowledged by the Headmaster, or by the Hon. Sec., Dr. A. W. G. Ranger, 17, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. In response to the appeal of the Rev. T. Barnard, M.A., contained in his article on "The Higher Education of the Blind" in our last issue, a generous gift of £5 has been kindly sent for the library of the Worcester College by Miss Catherine Heberden, of Brasenose College, Oxford, to be used in obtaining MS. copies of books suitable for students preparing for the Universities. The Governors and Headmaster are most grateful to Miss Heberden for this practical token of her interest in their work. This department is at present in great need of assistance.

18. The Committee of Gardner's Trust have notified in their Annual Report, that inasmuch as the amount of dividends which had accumulated during the proceedings in the Court of Chancery, is now practically exhausted, [and as a considerable

portion of the ordinary income of the Trust is allocated to annual scholarships, grants and pensions, it will be impossible in the future to make large donations, as hitherto, for building purposes, unless gifts are received that can be used for this special object.

19. On December 19th, a kinderspiel, "The Sleeping Beauty," was performed most successfully at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, by the pupils. It was composed by Mr. W. H. Illingworth, and the scenery was especially painted for the occasion. Over 500 visitors were entertained to tea, and witnessed the performance, which is shortly to be repeated in public. The ease and confidence with which the blind actors moved about the stage excited much admiration and enthusiasm.

20. Fifty years have passed since the first Home Teacher for the Blind was engaged by Miss Graham, of Clapham. This proved to be an event of vast importance for the adult Blind of the whole kingdom. It was the prelude to the formation of the Home Teaching Society in London, from which sprang over 60 similar Associations in the provinces. And, further, it led to the foundation of workshops, because when the Blind were regularly sought out and visited their needs and their capacity for industrial work were revealed, and it was found that many longed not only to be taught to read, but also to be restored to the ranks of labour. A quiet, earnest Service of Thanksgiving was held in commemoration of the Jubilee of the London Home Teaching Society for the Blind, at the Church of St. Thomas, Regent Street, on December 12th, when the fourteen Metropolitan Teachers, and the one who works in Surrey, were present with their guides, together with members of the Committee and other friends. An inspiring address was given by the Rev. Philip Bainbrigge, who bade the Teachers remember that they were indeed "Apostles," sent forth to their fellow sufferers, and for the fulfilment of their noble mission they must ever keep their "feet shod with the Gospel of Peace."

The Service was followed by a Tea and Entertainment. An interesting incident was the presentation by Mr. Hibbert, on

behalf of his fellow teachers, of a very pretty silver inkstand to the Secretary, Miss E. M. Bainbrigge. Mr. Hibbert expressed their great affection for her, and their appreciation of her zealous efforts. A bouquet was also presented to her by the guides.

21. In reply to many enquiries as to when the Official Report of the Edinburgh Conference will be published, we are able to state that it will probably be ready about the same time as this number appears. The delay has been unavoidable, owing to Mr. Pine's bad health, which we are glad to hear is now much improved, the holiday season of the year falling just after the Conference took place, and the large amount of other exceptional work Mr. Pine has had to do under great difficulties in connection with the Midland Institution for the Blind. We regret to hear that only 388 copies of the Report have as yet been ordered. Will intending subscribers kindly send, as soon as possible, their half-crown for each copy of the Report to Mr. Pine, Institution for the Blind, Chaucer Street, Nottingham?

22. On October 14th we were kindly invited to, and attended, an exhibition of students' work at the Linden Lodge Residential School for Blind Boys, Bolingbroke Grove, Wandsworth Common, S.W., which is under the London County Council. In the schoolroom the boys were writing and doing arithmetic, and in the workshops there was an excellent display of basket, wood, and iron work, and a complete woodwork course. The boys also went through a good gymnastic performance in the gymnasium, which showed that they had been carefully and well instructed. The prizes gained by students during the past school year were distributed by Mrs. J. T. Taylor, the wife of one of the Councillors. The guests were received and hospitably entertained by Miss Garraway, the Lady Superintendent.

23. A new organ has been presented by Dr. R. C. Brown to the Homes for the Blind at Preston, and on it has been placed a brass plate with the following inscription:—"This organ was

given by Dr. Robert Charles Brown, Preston, in response to the promptings of sympathy for the blind children, who receive suitable education and every consolation for their afflictions in this beneficent and worthy institution. November, 1905."

Dr. Campbell declared the organ open on November 30th, and thanked Dr. Brown for his handsome gift. Recitals were given, and instrumental and vocal music rendered by past and present pupils of the Royal Normal College, including Miss Emily Lucas, F.R.C.O., and Mr. Horace Watling, A.R.C.O. The audience was delighted with the exceptionally good performances. Alderman Roper, J.P., Chairman of the Homes, accepted the gift of the organ in appropriate words.

24 The annual Prizegiving at Henshaw's Blind Asylum took place on December 13th, when the prizes were distributed by Mr. F. Platt-Higgins, M.P., who, in a delightful speech, congratulated the prize-winners, and encouraged all. Councillor J. Royle presided at the meeting.

25. The annual entertainment to inmates and friends of the Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh, took place on December 21st and 22nd in the Institution at West Craigmillar. About 300 guests were present on each occasion. Most of the Directors were present, and also the Earl of Haddington, President of the Institution. The feature of the entertainments was the performance of the operetta, "A May Day Dream," the libretto of which is by the Head Master, Mr. W. M. Stone, the music being the composition of the senior Music Master, Mr. A. T. Lee Ashton. The performances were admirable, and much astonishment was expressed at the facility and confidence shown by the children in their movements on the stage. The operetta, which is very suitable for performance by the blind, is published by "The Vincent Music Publishing Company," London.

26. The Barclay Workshop for Blind Women is now being organized, and will start work at 2a, Praed Street, W., early this year. The workshop will be conducted on the same lines

as the existing workshops, but only women who have been taught at the Barclay Home will be admitted. Weaving and basket-making will be the two chief industries that will be carried on. The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer is Mr. Henry J. Wagg, to whom all communications should be addressed, at 6, Burwood Place, Hyde Park, W.

27. An "At Home" was given on November 7th, at the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind, 125, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W. There were about a hundred guests, who much enjoyed a musical programme, and an inspection of the Library premises, with the books methodically arranged, the materials for writing, &c.

28. The new wing of the Barclay Home and School for blind girls, Wellington Road, Brighton, was opened on December 13th by the Mayor of Brighton, who, with Mr. W. H. Champion, C.B., and Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of the Gardner's Trust for the Blind, were the speakers. In the new wing there is a well-arranged isolation ward, and also a large play-room for the girls. There was an excellent exhibit of fine basket work, and woven, netted and knitted goods, all made by the pupils. The articles were for sale, and reflected much credit on the careful instruction and oversight of the teachers. The building and grounds form a valuable compact freehold property for the benefit of the Blind.

29. The first meeting of the Committee appointed at the Edinburgh Conference, to organise the next Conference, was held in London in the morning of December 2nd, when there were present: Messrs. W. P. E. Barnes, J. Frew Bryden, Dr. F. J. Campbell, Mr. C. M. Collingwood, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, Miss Moon, Messrs. H. W. P. Pine, H. Stainsby, and H. J. Wilson. It was proposed by Mr. Pine, seconded by Dr. Campbell, and carried unanimously, that Mr. H. J. Wilson be elected Chairman of the Committee. It was reported that Miss E. M. Bainbrigge and Sir Robert Cranston, who

were appointed members of the Committee by the Conference, had withdrawn their names. Messrs. Munby, Plater and Tate wrote regretting their inability to attend the meeting. Mr. Pine presented a financial statement in regard to the receipts and expenditure of the last Conference, and stated that the accounts would not be closed until the Report of the Proceedings was printed and paid for. He explained how the delay in publishing the Report had been caused by the holiday season, and by many other unexpected difficulties. It was agreed to order 500 copies of the Report. The question of a Central Bureau which was referred by the Conference to this Committee was discussed, and Mr. Wilson read a letter, dated July 7th, which had been written to Mr. Norwood, of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, informing him that the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind did not "see their way to undertake the management of a Central Bureau as part of the ordinary duty of the Trust, or as an appendage to its other work." It was then agreed that further discussion on the subject be deferred until the next meeting. It was agreed that the next Conference be held in Manchester in 1908, at the end of July or the beginning of August, and the Chairman was requested to communicate with the Chairman of the Governors of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, and ask for their co-operation to make the Conference a success. Mr. W. H. Illingworth was unanimously elected Hon. Secretary of the Conference Committee in succession to Mr. Pine. The next meeting of the Committee will probably be held in York, soon after the Report of the last Conference is published.

30. The first meeting of the National Committee appointed at the Edinburgh Conference to consider the problem of the better and more general employment of the Blind, was held in London in the afternoon of December 2nd, when there were present: The Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. C. Macdonald, H. W. P. Pine, M. Priestley, H. Stainsby, G. Stott and H. J. Wilson. It was proposed by Mr. Pine, seconded by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, and resolved unanimously, that Mr. H. J. Wilson be elected Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Pine was unanimously elected

Hon. Secretary. It was reported that Mr. Faulkner, of Liverpool, and Mr. T. Stoddart, of Glasgow, had expressed their inability to act upon the Committee. Miss I. M. Heywood and Mr. Hewitt, of Belfast, wrote, regretting their inability to attend the meeting. It was resolved that the name of the Committee be the "National Committee for the Employment of the Blind." The Committee discussed the terms of reference as given to them by the Conference, and understood them to be that the scope of their work should embrace the consideration of what could be done to secure the better and more general employment of the Blind of this country, and to take whatever steps were deemed necessary to carry the same into effect. The question of the best way of proceeding with this most important subject was discussed at considerable length, and it was decided in the first instance to draw up a list of questions and submit them to all the Institutions in the United Kingdom, asking for information and statistics on the question of want of employment for the Blind in the various districts. A Royal Commission has been appointed to enquire into the unemployed question, and the Committee agreed that the Commission should be kept in view with the purpose, if possible, of making a representation at a later date on behalf of the Blind. It was resolved that Mr. Mullens, of the Association for the General Welfare of the Blind, Tottenham Court Road, London, and Mr. Meeson, of the Institution for the Blind, Leeds, be invited to become members of this Committee. It was agreed that the next meeting be held in the north, preferably in York or Bradford.

31. The new workshops for the Blind in Newcastle were opened on November 30th, by the High Sheriff of Northumberland. The site contains about 660 square yards, and fronts Breamish Street. On the ground floor there are rooms for bedding and mattress making, wood chopping, and mat and ship fend-off making. On the first floor is the basket-making department. The women's department consists of a large room for making mattress covers. There is a separate staircase and dining room for the men and women. The premises are lighted

by electricity, and heated by hot water. A legacy of £10,000 by the late Mr. George Handyside has enabled the Committee to erect this well arranged workshop for the Blind. There is accommodation for 70, but at present only 24 are employed.

32. The foundation stone of the new South London Institute for the Blind will be shortly laid by his Grace the Duke of Argyll. The Institute is an outcome of Hampton's Mission for the Blind, founded 1870, and will consist of a Home, Institute, and Library. There will be cubicles for young unmarried blind women. The Hon. Secretary is the Rev. St. Clare Hill, St. Margaret's, Leatherhead.

33. The 44th Anniversary of Founders' Day of the Institution for the Blind, at Bradford, was celebrated on November 8th, when Mr. F. Priestman presided. Excellent addresses were given by Dr. Ranger and Miss Isabel M. Heywood. The former has kindly allowed us, at our request, to print his address in the present number. A tea and entertainment was provided for 150 blind people and their guides. The chairman remarked that there were 53 men and 29 women employed in the Institution, and that the sales during the last ten months amounted to nearly £800 more than the sum received in the corresponding period last year.

34. The annual meeting of the Workshop for the Blind of Kent was held on December 4th at Blackheath, when the chair was taken by Canon B. Lawrence, and the speakers were Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P., the Rector of Lee, and the Rev. P. T. Bainbrigge.

35. It is with much regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Godfrey Wedgwood. In order to give our readers some idea of the good work he did for the blind, we cannot do better than give an abstract from an eloquent tribute to his memory in "The Teacher of the Deaf" by Mr. E. V. Greatbatch, Chairman of the Committee of the School for the Blind and Deaf at Stoke-on-Trent:—

" When the Education Act [Blind and Deaf

Children] became law in 1892, no one in Staffordshire knew so well the possibilities of it as did Mr. Godfrey Wedgwood.

With a heart brim full of sympathy for the two little communities which it was intended to benefit, he hastened to secure for them all the advantages which became theirs by right under the Clauses of the Act. No sooner was the Statute made than he called the attention of the various School Boards and educational authorities in the neighbourhood to their responsibilities to the Blind and Deaf children within their areas, and I know of no pen or voice which could have wielded so much influence or so thoroughly carried conviction as his. The association of a lifetime, wherein he had devoted thought energy, and generosity to the work, made him an irresistible 'power behind the throne' and he had the pleasure of seeing his mother-county the first in England to fully put the Act in force, a fact over which he greatly rejoiced.

Seven School Boards were represented at the preliminary meetings which he convened, with the result that subsequently six of them became federated (again the first instance of the kind in England) for the purpose of forming a Joint Authority to put the provisions of the Act in force. Federation was the most feasible solution of the difficulties which lay around at the outset. Not one of the School Boards has sufficient Blind and Deaf children within the limit of its constitution to justify the erection of a residential school, while day classes did not commend themselves. Moreover, such statistics as were then available did not suggest the presence of sufficient Blind children in the districts under notice to make a separate residential school an economical possibility, so that, in the wisdom of the earlier meetings held to deal with the matter, another unique step was resolved upon, namely, to combine the education of blind children and deaf children in one residential school, though, of necessity, under separate conditions. During all these preliminary considerations Mr. Godfrey Wedgwood was the centre round which all seemed to merge, his zeal in the cause with his warm heart and clear head largely assisted to make all things possible.

. . . . At the first meeting of the duly constituted 'North Staffordshire Joint School Authority for the Education of Blind and Deaf Children' the members 'with one accord' appointed Mr. Godfrey Wedgwood the first chairman, a position which he continued to fill with skill and ability for some years, until a serious illness compelled him to relinquish it.

. . . . In common with all who have shared or followed the work of educating blind children, I and the Head Master at the Mount (Mr. Story) became much impressed and oft-times *depressed* by the hopelessness of their future prospects as self-supporting, or partially self-supporting, citizens, unless some one placed a Pool of Siloam in their way, and so to speak, gave sight in the ends of their fingers. As I generally did in such matters, I mentioned the subject to Mr. Godfrey Wedgwood, who at once urged us to take up a scheme to found Workshops for the Blind in the Potteries, promising to do all he could to help us, which he did so exceedingly generously, and obtained such help from others, that the scheme prospered; workshops were established, and now remain, giving wage-earning power and healthy employment to industrious people who otherwise would probably, though through no fault of their own, now be amongst sorrowing unemployed."

36. On October 4th the staff and past and present pupils of the Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, presented Mr. Pine, the Secretary, with an illuminated address and a pair of handsome silver candlesticks as a tangible mark of recognition of his services during 25 years. The presentation was made by Mr. J. C. Warren, a member of the Committee of the Institution, who spoke in most eulogistic terms of Mr. Pine, and stated that at the last meeting of the Committee they had placed a resolution on the Minutes congratulating him on the completion of 25 years of office as Secretary and Superintendent, and thanking him "for his valuable services, and the ability, energy, and enthusiasm he had displayed in the discharge of his duties." The illuminated address is as follows :—

Dear Sir,

“ October, 1905.

We, the undersigned, on behalf of the staff, workers, and past and present pupils of the Institution, desire to offer you our warm congratulations on the completion of your 25th year of service as Secretary and Superintendent. We ask you to accept this address, and the accompanying little gift, as a token of our esteem, and of our appreciation of the kindness you have shown to us during the many years we have had the pleasure of serving under you.

We gratefully recall the kind interest you have taken in all connected with the Institution, and the energy and enthusiasm for the cause of the blind which have distinguished you throughout your whole career. To these in no small degree are attributable the growth of the Institution trade and the progress of its work in other directions. Since your appointment the sales have increased from £1,200 in 1880 to upward of £7,000 in 1905. New trades and occupations have been introduced; the physical and mental training of the pupils has been immeasurably improved: and the old pupils' fund, which has been of such great benefit, has been established. To your initiative and care are due the existence and progress of the sick club for the blind, and to your untiring efforts do those connected with the Institution owe much happiness and many pleasures which would otherwise be beyond their reach.

In all these changes and schemes we recognise the proof of your warm sympathy with the blind and your desire for their welfare, and we offer you our warmest thanks.

We also desire to place on record the high honour of your being elected to fill the post of Hon. General Secretary to the International Conference on the Blind held at Edinburgh this year.

We trust that you will be long spared to labour among us in the enjoyment of health and happiness.

Assuring you of the warmest regard in which you are held by us all. We remain,” &c.

Mr. Pine, who was wholly unaware that a testimonial was going to be presented to him, thanked his friends most warmly for their kind appreciation of his efforts to assist the blind in every possible way he could.

37. Mr. W. G. Hanbury sends us the following paragraph about Shirreff Braille: "Directed by the British and Foreign Blind Association, an adaptation of Braille's system, suitable for many Oriental languages, was made by Mrs. Shirreff, wife of Rev. F. A. P. Shirreff, M.A., Fellow of the Punjab University and Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Lahore. Starting some seventeen years ago on a small and economical scale at the North India Industrial Home for the Christian Blind, Shirreff Braille is now used in five schools and in numberless individual cases. It is working well in the Hindustani, Hindi, and Telugu languages. Differing but slightly from English Braille, it is an inestimable boon in India—a country fast becoming English-speaking. Like the original Braille system, Shirreff Braille is simple, very easy to learn, and has a judicious distribution of dots. Its most remarkable feature, prized by readers and voluntary writers, is the mode of representing long vowels and aspirated consonants by uniformly adding dot 6 (lower front dot) to the signs for the corresponding short vowels and unaspirated letters respectively. This ingenious adaptation of an ingenious system has already given to the Blind of India a library of many volumes at the North India Home."

X 38. The Home and School for Blind Girls in Jerusalem, which was opened January, 1897, has now ten girls under the care of Miss Lovell. They come from all parts of Palestine and Syria, and are taught a general education, needlework, knitting, &c., but the Home is essentially missionary. The instruction is given in Arabic, but a few of the more advanced pupils are taught English. There is in connection with the School a class for blind women for religious instruction only. In the report of the School for the year ended March 31st, 1905, there are illustrations of the writing, reading, and knitting classes, and of the class for blind women. The British and Foreign Bible Society made the School a free grant of twenty copies of St. Mark's Gospel in Arabic Braille. We congratulate Miss Lovell on the successful way she has carried on her school.

39. We have received a copy of the third annual Report of the North India Industrial Home for Christian Blind at Rajpur. There are good illustrations of women and girls knitting, and of women reading and spinning. There are in the Home 28 boys, 22 girls, and 17 women, making a total of 67 in all. An infirmary was being built when, on April 4th, the severe earthquake cracked the walls so that much had to be pulled down and rebuilt. The land and buildings belonging to the Home have been placed in the hands of Trustees. The hon. Superintendents are the Misses Frances and Emily Sharp, and the hon. Treasurer is Mr. Charles Sharp, The Grange, Redhill. We regret to see that the year ended on June 30th with a deficit of £33 17s. 8d.

40. On October 24th the Earl of Haddington presented to the Royal Asylum for the Blind at Craigmillar, Edinburgh, some preserved specimens of natural history, including an alligator, a shark, and a turtle. His Lordship at the same time gave the children an interesting account of the habits and peculiarities of various animals.

INSTITUTIONS.

Edinburgh. The 112th Annual Meeting of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, was held on December 21st, when the report for the year ended September 30th was presented and adopted. Reference is made to the extension and re-construction of premises at West Craigmillar, at an estimated cost of £15,000, and to the probable re-organization at the industrial department in Nicholson Street. In West Craigmillar there were 103 blind inmates, including 39 women, 29 boys, and 24 girls on September 30th. Six pupils passed the examination held by the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music. In Nicholson Street, 146 blind persons were employed. The sales amounted to £17,451; £2,704 were paid in wages to the blind, £3,573 in supplementary allowances, and the deficit was £709. There are 136 out-door pensioners.

Hanley. The 3rd annual meeting of the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind, Victoria Road, Hanley, was held on September 28th, when Mr. E. V. Greatbatch presided, and the report of the year ended June 30th was presented. On the average 13 male and 5 female workers have been employed, to whom £480 has been paid in wages and £36 as an additional bonus. The sales amounted to £923, and the deficit on the revenue account was £229.

Leeds. The 29th annual report of the Leeds United Institution for the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb for the year ended June 30th was adopted at the annual meeting, when the Lord Mayor presided. The sales amounted to £8,686, including an increased turnover of about £700 in the brush department. At the close of the year there were 54 blind workers employed, of whom 25 were in the brush department. There is a Sick Society managed by the blind workers, and although £37 was paid in sick pay, there is a balance of £142. There are 447 names of blind people on the register, who are visited by two visitors. The shop in Albion Street has been refitted and refronted.

BLINDNESS AND THE PRESENT POSITION OF BRAILLE.

(A Speech delivered by DR. A. W. G. RANGER, at the
Institution for the Blind, Bradford, on
November 8th, 1905).

Let me say at the outset that it gives me much pleasure to be here this evening. The Blind with the Blind, and those friends of the Blind who appreciate and sympathise with them make up a gathering which for enjoyment is difficult to beat.

At such gatherings there prevails a likemindedness, a sense of unity and of mutual interest, and withal a gaiety of heart which is so painfully absent from many of the gatherings of the sighted in which one, from time to time, takes part.

Hence I am not a little grateful to Mr. Tate for having

invited me here this evening, and to you for the patience and indulgence with which I am sure you are going to listen to me.

But to my subject. What is blindness? It is nothing more or less than a physical condition. It is the loss of one of the five senses, pure and simple, nothing else. A blind man is a sighted man, minus his sight. Blindness has necessarily no particular effect on the subject of it, except the negative one that the subject cannot see, that is to say, his other faculties are not necessarily improved by blindness, nor are they depreciated. Blindness brings to him no new powers which he did not possess as a sighted man. Neither are his senses necessarily quickened or his powers enlarged, nor does he acquire any new sense or faculty. All the talk about a sixth sense is, in my opinion, without justification. What really happens to a person who loses his sight, say at 15 or upwards, is first the realisation that life has come to him under new conditions, and he commences experiments at once. His success in these experiments is in exact accord with his character and abilities. If he is an intelligent, industrious, conscientious, ambitious man, he will succeed accordingly. The experiments will be repeated indefinitely, and increasing efficiency will follow, until such proficiency is acquired as that a large proportion of his friends regard his accomplishments as wonderful, etc. If he is of less than average ability, lazy, without ambition, very little conscience, and is selfish, self indulgent and without hope, his experiments will be few, his success meagre. There will be no efficiency and he will gradually sink lower and lower. Constant practice enables a blind man to combine his remaining four senses with very great rapidity and very great certainty. The sighted have many capacities, the possession of which they do not realise because they seldom use them, but a blind man calls upon himself for all the capacities he has, and consequently his powers of observation and of self-help grow up very considerably by calling into play the powers which he has in common with the sighted, and by making, through constant practice, his remaining faculties increasingly quick and efficient. I think it important, in the interests of the Blind, that this truth about

blindness should be kept clearly in view. Nothing can be more mischievous and prejudicial in the long run than for the opinion to prevail that there is something mysterious, exceptional and unnatural about a blind man. That he possesses something which a sighted man does not, etc. With the prevalence of such an opinion a rational, true, kind, and beneficial system of education and training is practically impossible. Such can only be built upon the solid foundation of truth and fact, namely, that blindness is a merely physical condition, and that, barring his blindness, a blind man is even as a sighted man.

The one differentiating characteristic between blind persons themselves, is the measure in which they possess what I will call the power of self adjustment. This is partly a matter of character and disposition, and partly of culture. One blind person succeeds while another fails. It is so with the sighted, but, why? Because one possesses the faculty which enables him to succeed, while the other does not. Their other powers may be quite equal, but one cannot adjust himself hour by hour, day by day, week by week, to the various circumstances of life, while the other can.

Some little while ago I was professionally concerned in the settlement of a Deed of Trust, in which the awarding of certain scholarships for the Blind had a part, and I asked the Charity Commissioners, who very kindly consented, to insert in the Deed of Trust, words which enabled the awarders of the scholarships to take into consideration, in addition to his intellectual attainments, the question of the candidate's general ability to succeed, so to speak, in becoming a man of affairs, or, as some would express it, a man of the world.

Let me now point out what I consider three of the chief disadvantages of blindness and three of the chief advantages, for there are, I hold, some advantages in blindness, and not very inconsiderable ones. First, as to the three disadvantages:

(1). Blindness deprives its subject of the sight of nature, of the faces of his friends and of colour. The view from the hill, the village church in the valley, the cottage by the brook, the hillside, the woods, the river, the sea, with its islands in the bay,

are all hidden from him. The fresh greens of Spring, the flowers of Summer, the beautiful Autumn tints, and the magnificent white of the Winter snow are all beyond him. The features of his friends and of those who are most dear to him he is also deprived of. The play of eye and lip he cannot see, nor the smile of welcome, and colour with all its infinite capacities for pleasure giving, are also hidden from him.

But there are two points to notice in this connection, first, this disadvantage is a purely negative one, but curiously enough, on the one hand it is the disadvantage which more especially awakens the sympathy of his sighted friends and brings to him all the infinite wealth of their compassion and care, whilst, on the other hand, it is a disadvantage which the blind person the least feels. Take a few blind children to the seaside. Watch them as they first come on the sand and hear the sound of the waves. Do they spend one thought or one instant in regretting that they cannot see it? Not a bit of it, they enjoy the sound, the air, the tread of the sand under their feet, etc., etc., quite as much as the sighted. Again, a blind man does not spend his days, no, not five minutes in the year, in regretting that he cannot see this or that, but he enjoys himself as he goes along and forgets that he is blind.

Moreover, it should never be forgotten that the blind greatly enjoy pretty things they cannot see. A nicely furnished room, beautifully decorated, pretty clothes, a good house, the presence of their friends, a Summer's day, etc., etc., into all this the blind man enters to the full, without lamenting his blindness. He gets a sense of them, for there are many more avenues to the brain than the eyes. He enters a room, he notices the carpet, the fire, the sound through the window, the sunbeam across his face or hand, the canary in the cage, the movement of the servant who shows him in, the bits of furniture he touches, the sense of space in the room, all these things and many more combine and give the blind man definite ideas in an instant, far more quickly than I can mention them, but of course in proportion to his intelligence and practised habit of observation.

(2). The second disadvantage to which I would draw

attention is what I describe as exposure to interference. Every sighted member of a civilized community values the inviolability of his person. He assumes its existence, counts upon it and in fact enjoys it. This is not so with a blind member, and it is a very real privation. Every sighted person, from the very best of motives, I fully admit, feels at liberty and exercises that liberty, of seizing a blind person, without notice or warning of any kind, and by violence giving him an entirely new direction, eastward, perchance, when he is walking northward. For instance, a blind man is about to get into a cab, if his friend will give him a few seconds more time than a sighted man would need, he will discover the exact position of the cab and get into it quite neatly and comfortably, but the chances are a thousand to one that these extra few seconds will not be given him. His friend will seize hold of him and impart such compulsion that the blind man is startled, confused, and loses his balance completely, and from being a rational creature, he is reduced to a living piece of luggage. Partly by main force and partly by his own struggles he is got into the cab, and it will be lucky indeed if he has escaped a bruised arm or leg or bent finger. Only the other day I was about to wash my hands. There was a row of swing basins. I was at the moment standing not quite opposite one of the basins, a few inches to the side. In another half second I should have discovered that I was not exactly in the right position because I was in the act of stretching out my hand to turn the tap. A gentleman standing near saw that I was not quite opposite the basin and, with the best intention, but without apology or warning, he takes kindly but firmly hold of my arm and insists on my taking a side step, the result being that I almost completely fell over. Being in the act of bending forward, it was impossible in a second to readjust myself to a side movement. This is what I call exposure to interference. What is a blind man to do in such a case? There can be no doubt as to the answer. He must smile appreciatively at his would be helper and thank him with emphasis, and at the same time suppress his internal wrath and indignation. This is in sober truth a real disadvantage, a heavy cross for the blind to bear, and they realise it daily. The sum total of what a busy

blind man in a city has to endure under this head in a week is, to put it mildly, very considerable.

(3). The third disadvantage and this perhaps is in reality the most severe of all, I describe as a limitation of action. This limitation varies with each blind person, and varies with the same blind person from time to time. How often does a blind man see clearly what ought to be done, how to do it, and knows that but for his blindness he could do it. Maybe he alone at the moment has the opportunity of doing it, and if done, the reward will be his and his only. He perceives beforehand that he cannot do it because of his blindness, and does not try. This is what I call limitation of action, and it is the severest of all the penalties of blindness, with an intensity of severity in proportion to the intelligence, energy and ambition of the blind person in question. The object of a blind man's life is to diminish these limitations, and by constant practice he will certainly reap a very large measure of success. Every man must discover his own limitations by unremitting effort, by repeated experience. It is when a blind man has tried and tried again and failed, that he deserves the utmost sympathy and compensation that the sighted can give him.

Before I pass to the advantages of blindness I desire to say a word on the effect of blindness on character. It is said that the blind are vain and egotistical. If this be so, and I am not prepared to absolutely deny it, surely it behoves all of us blind people to be very alert as to our language and bearing generally, so as to get rid of the tendency. It is a terrible thing to be full of one's own conceit, always imagining that others are wrong and we are right.

And now to the three advantages of blindness which I proposed to mention.

First: The almost limitless fund of active sighted sympathy of which blind people are always the object. It is like a great heritage to which blindness gives an indefeasible title. In this respect the blind stand in an unique and highly privileged position. There is no section of the community which is so certain of ready and willing sympathy, help, and aid as the

blind. His need is so obvious that he appears to require, nay, is considered to be entitled, to be treated as in much greater need than he often really is. This is the case unfortunately less with blind girls and women than with blind boys and men. As a matter of fact until about the present generation the course of blind philanthropy has run much more strongly in favour of boys and men than in that of girls and women. At the beginning of last century blind girls were almost entirely neglected by the philanthropist, and this is easily explainable were there time to go into that subject. During the last 30 years great steps have been taken towards mending this inequality, and to-day blind girls are being fairly well looked after. I need not point out to such an audience as this that it is hearts, brains and hands of sighted ladies which constitute by far the larger part of this sighted sympathy and aid. It is to our sighted sisters that we blind people are so infinitely indebted. Personally I gladly admit that nine-tenths of what I have been able to do has been done with the help that ladies have given to me.

The second advantage that I would mention I call the faculty of access. A blind person can get audience almost anywhere. There are few sighted men and women who will not give a blind person a hearing. What is more valuable in this world's affairs than to be sure of a hearing, to be in touch with, in the presence of, to be listened to by people; to be in possession of a portion of their time; is there anything more valuable, no matter what your purpose may be? It is verily a priceless advantage, a boon beyond measure which the blind possess in an extraordinary degree.

The third and last advantage which I would mention may at first sight, so to speak, be a surprise. It is the perpetuity of the affliction. Experience shows that the loss of an affliction is a great loss. Speaking generally when you become blind, you become so once for all, finally. It was so in my own case, and after living under this visitation 42 years as I have done, what do you imagine would be my condition did I awake to-morrow morning in full possession of my eyesight. I should probably, for some years, perhaps for the remainder of my life, be a

wretchedly unhappy man, whereas I am now a happy one. Think of it for a moment. I have never seen my wife, my four children, nor have I seen most of my friends. I have never seen my daily surroundings, my home, my chambers, the London suburb in which I live. How inexpressibly disappointed I might be on seeing them all. Think of the new colourings of the last 42 years, the new inventions, the things I have never seen. Think of my loss of the sense of proportion of distance, my standard of speed of trains, motors, bicycles, trams, horses, cows, etc., of the conflict between my blind experience in respect of distance and my new sighted knowledge of time, etc. I should be afraid to move, should probably do myself injury, and maybe lose my life. Rest assured the perpetuity of blindness is a great advantage in this connection.

Never forget that not one per cent. of blind people spend ten minutes in the year regretting their blindness, for verily, in not a few cases, it is as Victor Hugo says: "A Paradise of darkness."

Let me now pass on to the two principles which I think should govern a blind person's life.

First: The blind will do well to always frankly, fully and naturally acknowledge the fact of their blindness, not only externally in word and conduct, but internally in the deep silent recesses of one's most innermost being. It is the surest way of happiness, it simplifies his life, puts him on the right and true ground for sympathy and aid, it is the right footing from which to start to help himself.

It preserves him from affectation of a thousand kinds, and assures right and becoming conduct. Oliver Wendell Holmes says to this effect in his "Autocrat of the Breakfast table," "to acquire an unreserved conviction and realisation that one is of less than average ability, hopelessly dull, a fool, to take this fully and finally into one's soul has a blessed and tranquilising effect, the sense of responsibility rolls from one's shoulders like Christian's burden from his back." Something of this kind is the result to a blind man of a frank admission of his blindness. It is a principle of attitude.

The second principle that should control his life is a principle of action. His life should be a life of effort in disregard as far as possible of his blindness. In other words while admitting that he is a blind man he should seek to act as though he were not. He should discover by actual experience, each for himself, his own limitations. As to what these may be, he should never accept from the experience of another blind man, he must have his own. Nor should he even accept his own as the result of the first, second, or even third effort, for practice makes perfect infinitely more with the blind than with the sighted, and of course he should never accept the dictum of the sighted as to his own limitations. "To thyself be true," has peculiar force when addressed to the blind in this connection. "Fortune smiles on brave endeavours, put your shoulder to the wheel."

I have occupied more time than I intended, and will be brief with the remainder of my remarks—"The present position of Braille."

On the whole Braille is the greatest amelioration of the lot of the blind that I know of. This well nigh greatest of all blessings to the blind is due to the ingenuity and philanthropy of two most excellent Frenchmen, one sighted and the other blind. In this connection let me interpose the remark that there is no greater mistake than to allow the least encouragement to the doctrine, either that the blind can do without the sighted in anything whatever connected with their well being, or that the sighted of themselves without the aid of the blind can efficiently initiate, maintain and administer any system of blind philanthropy. Co-operation between the blind and the sighted is essential for the best furtherance of blind interests under all circumstances, even in this very matter of Braille, in which one so constantly hears it insisted on that the blind are the best judges. The proposition is but partially true. But to return: These two ever to be honoured Frenchman were Captain Barbier and Mons. Braille. They lived early in the 19th century. The former was an artillery officer, wealthy, of good family, educated and sighted. The latter, poor, humbly born, and with only such education as the State gave in those days to the blind, practically none, and

blind. The largest share of credit unquestionably belongs to Captain Barbier, the largest share of credit has unquestionably been enjoyed by Monsieur Braille, and it is his name that has been connected with the embossed, dotted system which we all know so well. The services rendered by Captain Barbier were, first, the great one of substituting embossed dots for embossed lines. Secondly, the invention of the slate for writing the system which we now know so well as the Braille slate. We use it to-day practically exactly as Captain Barbier invented it. And thirdly, a scientific system of letters or symbols. Mons. Braille conferred one great service upon the blind, namely, that of cutting down Captain Barbier's twelve dots to six, but Mons. Braille made also one great mistake which has had the effect of conferring on the blind the very great burden of the present welter of confusion which exists throughout the blind world on the question of Braille writing. He abandoned Capt. Barbier's scientific alphabet and selected quite arbitrarily ten dot combinations to express the first ten letters of the French alphabet. These formed the well known first line of Braille. They also represent the first ten figures. The extreme simplicity of this arrangement, followed on of course by the other lines secured for it immediate acceptance, but the blind have paid for this simplicity a woefully high price. So simple did Mons. Braille thus make the learning of the system that one can practically say with truth that one can gain an elementary knowledge of Braille literally in a few minutes, but so great was the price paid for this temporary advantage that the Braille world is to-day in the greatest confusion. Had Mons. Braille kept to Barbier's phonetic symbols, the whole blind world would have been at one to-day in respect of the use of an embossed dotted system for reading and writing. The price of this enormous advantage would have been a little extra trouble in learning Braille. Mons. Braille's mistake is easily accounted for. He was a man of considerable ingenuity, industry and philanthropy, but as an uneducated man he thought only of his own country and his own language. Captain Barbier, as a cultured man of intelligence, thought of the blind of the whole world.

Braille, as we now call it, thus evolved about 1834, was known in this country as early as 1860, and systematically introduced and adjusted to the English language and published by the late great blind philanthropist, Dr. Armitage, through the medium of the British and Foreign Blind Association. The Association has published Braille unaltered ever since. But a desire was constantly expressed for modification. The Association accordingly appointed a Committee to consider the matter. The Committee was known as "The New Contractions Committee." After working nearly three years, it published a provisional report. The report had two mistakes. Its suggestions were carried too far, and were couched in language which, though exact, was not easy to follow without careful attention. The result was, that in 1902, at the London Conference, this provisional report was severely and almost unanimously condemned. A fresh Committee was appointed, practically by the Conference, called "The Uniform Braille Committee." This Committee worked for over a year without arriving at any definite conclusion, and then an arrangement was made in pursuance of which the "New Contractions Committee" and the "Uniform Braille Committee" were both dissolved, and a new Committee, called "The British Braille Committee," was formed, consisting of twelve members, nominated by each of the dissolved Committees. The British Braille Committee worked for two years and then issued its report. It adopted the alphabet of the English Braille as the unalterable basis of Braille for this country, and adopted the suggestions of the New Contractions Committee to divide Braille into three grades. The British and Foreign Blind Association provisionally adopted the report of the British Braille Committee, and after it had called together the publishers of Braille in this country, and obtained their views in favour of the report, the Association finally adopted it, and then appointed a Committee to draw up rules for the guidance of printers and writers of Braille, in accordance with the report of the British Braille Committee. This Committee is still at work, and its report is not expected for probably two months from the present date. I am one of those who think

that the third grade of Braille will ultimately be the grade which will be of general use. Most people who understand the subject think, however, that grade two, which is very much like English Braille as at present written, will be the popular grade. That you may have some little idea of the lines upon which grade three has been formed, I will give you a few of the principles which have controlled its formation, and if you agree that these are good, it seems to me that you will have to agree that grade three is itself good.

(1.) The grade is intended for the educated, intelligent, and experienced. Those who have mastered grades one and two and want something more.

(2.) The grade is to be organically associated with grades one and two, to be an extension of grade two, so that the student who has mastered grades one and two has nothing to unlearn.

(3.) The reader's interest is made the dominating consideration throughout, and not the printer's and writer's. But it must be remembered the neglect of the writer's interest can be pushed too far, so as to prejudice the interest of the reader, which must at all costs be preserved to the maximum extent possible. Bulk and price must yield to the reader's interest.

(4.) Rigid adherence to the alphabetical principle is not imperative. Other aids to memory will be sometimes superior, such as parts of verbs, association of ideas, &c.

(5.) The beginning of the words should be kept clear, and be such as instantly and naturally to suggest the meaning. The ends of words can be much more safely abbreviated.

(6.) The claims of space must yield to those of legibility. Do not be afraid of losing a little space for the sake of this.

(7.) Seek to get as much meaning under the fingers at one time as possible, subject to claims of legibility.

(8.) Remember little words. You frequently help the reader much more by contracting a little word often repeated than by such words as "Parliamentary Government."

(9.) Do not be afraid to let a sign have more than one meaning, and to rely on context, subject matter, and the intelligence of the reader.

(10.) Abbreviate in a way practically intelligible to readers, even though it be not consistent or symmetrically perfect—in other words, do not sacrifice the interest of the reader to the symmetry of your scheme.

(11.) Abbreviations are generally better than contractions.

(12.) Conformity to the practice of the sighted may be a good subsidiary justification, but can never be a good primary one.

(13.) The convenience of the teacher can never be a justification.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE BLIND.

THE GENERAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND,
BIRMINGHAM,

27th November, 1905.

Sir,

I have read and carefully considered your editorial in the last issue of your interesting and useful magazine, and should like, with your permission, to make a few comments on the two points you have raised, viz.: the early issue of the Annual Reports, and the necessity for a definite statement of the wages paid to the blind workers engaged in Workshops for the Blind.

With regard to the first, it must be admitted that it is very desirable that the full report should be placed in the hands of subscribers and friends of the Institution as soon as possible after the close of the Institution's financial year, but it is not always possible to do this within the period you name, because, in the first place, many of the larger Institutions have important trading departments attached to them, and before the statements of accounts can be submitted for audit an immense amount of stock has to be carefully taken, recorded and extended. In the

case of this Institution, the value of the stock last year was £5,775, made up for the most part of small items. After the accounts have been prepared and audited, they (with the Annual Report) must be submitted to and approved by the Committee, after which the Annual Meeting must be held, and all before it is possible to print and issue the full report of the Institution. I trust, Sir, that after this explanation you will be satisfied that, although *most desirable*, it is not always possible to issue Annual Reports within the period you name.

With regard to the second point at issue, I cordially agree that the accounts of all Institutions and Societies for the Blind should show clearly the amount paid to the Blind Workers as wages. All will admit that the primary (indeed I might go so far as to say the *only*) object in carrying on a trading department in connection with an Institution is to put wages into the pockets of blind employees. I think, Sir, with you, that a clear statement of wages is due to the subscribers of an Institution, and not only to them, but also to its customers, who in most cases purchase goods from an Institution because they think they are benefiting the Blind. I have referred to the Annual Reports of twenty-five of the most important Institutions in the United Kingdom, and find that in ten of them no attempt is made to dissect the wages, so as to show the amount paid to the Blind. In some other cases the statements and figures are so hazy that one has in a measure to guess what is meant. In every instance the total amount of the sales is given, but while this may be a fair guide to the state of trade, it matters little in comparison with the amount paid to the Blind Workers for whose benefit the Institution was established.

I should like to know the views of others on this important matter.

Yours faithfully,

HENRY STAINSBY,
General Superintendent and Secretary.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 34.

APRIL, 20TH, 1906.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 23rd, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

In accordance with our promise in the last number, we print Mr. Hedger's paper on the Sydney Industrial Blind Institution. It is interesting to read what is being done in Australia on behalf of the Blind. We also print a short article on Esperanto by Miss Boord, and in regard to this question we read in *The Standard*, of March 17th:—"Esperanto is now a recognised language. In future it will rank with French and German, for the London Chamber of Commerce has adopted it, and included it in its list of subjects for examination. The first test for students will be held on May 30th, and certificates will be given to successful competitors."

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. We heartily congratulate Mr. H. Wade Deacon, President of the School for the Blind, Hardman Street, Liverpool, on his appointment to the distinguished and responsible position of auditor of the London and North Western Railway Co. Mr. Wade Deacon takes great interest in the Blind, and initiated at the Liverpool School the fund for

assisting old pupils in their respective trades. He also took an active part in the London Conference of 1902, and was a member of the Committee appointed by the Conference to draw up the report in regard to "defective" blind children.

2. The Rev. Greville C. Pope, late of Worcester Blind College, on leaving his curacy at St. George's, Hyde, to go to Deptford, was presented with a handsome clock by the teachers and senior scholars of the Sunday School, with many appreciative remarks on his services.

3. Mr. Lister, formerly student of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, who is now a non-collegiate at Oxford, has passed Responsions, and Mr. K. Macartney, formerly a student of the Blind College, Worcester, and now of Queen's College, Oxford, has passed Moderations.

4. Mr. Frederick F. Coaker, A.R.C.O., a former student of the Exeter Institution for the Blind, has been appointed Organist at St. John's Church, Shaftesbury.

5. At the last competition of the Feis Ceoil in Dublin, Mr. Gilbert Hardebeck, a former student of the Royal Normal College, won two more prizes for an original song, and an arrangement of an old Irish air to English words. The adjudicator was Dr. E. Prout. Mr. Hardebeck was not eligible to receive the prizes, as he had gained them in this form of composition the two previous years, but the songs are to be sung at the Festival in May. In all he has won 14 prizes in the various classes of composition.

6. Forms of application for candidates this year for a Gardner Scholarship tenable at one of the Universities, can be obtained from the Secretary of Gardner's Trust, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W., and must be returned to him not later than 30th of June next, the last day on which applications can be received.

7. The following six students from the Royal Normal College went up for the A.R.C.O. Examination held last January--their respective ages are given in brackets—and all were successful except one, who failed in his paper work only:—Gertrude Blenkarn (20), Sidney Brooker (19), Hugh Howard (19), Patrick Keily (18), William Laurie (20), and Percy Williams (22). Frederick F. Coaker (20), who has been trained at the Exeter Institution for the Blind, also passed the same examination. We understand that the examination was exceptionally severe, and that out of 200 candidates only 62 were successful. This fact enhances the success of the blind candidates, and reflects the greatest credit on their teachers. Mr. Coaker was taught entirely by Mr. H. C. Souter, A.R.C.O., himself blind. Sir Walter Parratt, the President of the College, presented the diplomas to the successful candidates, and said, "I am particularly struck with the fact that among the successful associates should be some without the inestimable boon of sight. I think the greatest honours belong to these candidates who have had to get through this difficult examination without our advantages. How much I honour them I really cannot say." The "Musical News," also refers to the success of blind candidates, and says: "It is much to their credit that, notwithstanding their deprivation of the blessings of sight, they should have been successful where others who could see have failed."

8. The Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, 2a, Praed Street, London, W., was formally opened on April 2nd, by Lord Midleton.

9. Miss West, Clyde Bank, Hayesfield Park, Bath, Somerset, wishes us to announce that she lends books in Braille without any charge, provided that the readers pay the carriage of the books both ways. Nearly all the books, which consist of lives of well-known men and women, &c., have been written out by Miss West and her sister.

10. The Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind have presented their Library of classical works in Braille to the

Governors of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester. It includes the works of Homer, Horace, Tacitus, Virgil, Plato, Thucydides, Xenophon, Cæsar, Cicero, Demosthenes, Herodotus, Plutarch, Sophocles, &c., &c.

11. On Thursday, the 25th of January, the Royal Normal College at Upper Norwood held its annual Christmas Festival. Lord Ludlow kindly consented to take the Chair on the occasion, and he and Lady Ludlow arrived early in the afternoon, and were conducted round the classes and gymnasium. From there they proceeded to the Gardner Hall, where Mr. Horace Watling gave an organ recital, and the pupils of the College followed with a most enjoyable concert. Lady Ludlow then graciously unveiled the Christmas Tree, and Lord Ludlow expressed the pleasure it had given them to come there, and the astonishment with which they had learnt the achievements of which the Blind were capable when properly taught and directed. He hoped that Lady Ludlow and himself might often be allowed to repeat their visit. Votes of thanks to Lord and Lady Ludlow concluded the proceedings.

12. The following Magazines are for sale :—Santa Lucia, 1889 to 1893 inclusive, bound, 12/- a year; 1894 to 1901 inclusive, unbound, 8/- a year. Church Messenger, 1898 to 1905 inclusive, unbound, 5/- a year. Application to be made to Rev. R. Jenkins, Talaton Rectory, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.

13. In our last number, paragraph No. 6, we referred to the engagement of Miss Ada Hodgson as a shorthand writer and typist, but we ought to have mentioned that she received her earlier training at the Midland Institution for the Blind, where she was for nine and a half years. She was one of the most advanced pupils, and left in January, 1901, to go to the Royal Normal College.

14. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel appointed some time ago a Committee to organise work among children, the object being to interest them in the Missionary

work of the Church, by circulating a magazine specially written for them, giving them information on the subject, and encouraging them to help the work in various ways, chiefly by intercession and Bible study. The children joining in this movement are enrolled under the name of "King's Messengers." The Committee have now decided to start a branch for blind children, and have appointed as their Secretary the Rev. C. E. Bolam, Rector of Lusby, Spilsby, Lincs., an old pupil of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester. Mr. Bolam appeals to all those interested in work among the Blind to help by making this effort known, and by sending him the names and addresses of any blind children who may wish to join. With these he will gladly correspond in Braille, and supply them with Braille literature on the subject of Missions.

15. The official report of the Edinburgh Conference has now been published. In our last number (par. 21) we explained how the delay occurred, but we think that everyone who has seen the report, will realize what an amount of time, care, and thought it must have taken to bring out such a satisfactory report. Our grateful thanks are due to Mr. Pine for this labour of love in addition to the constant and urgent calls on his time in connection with the new buildings and the daily ordinary work of the Institution for the Blind, at Nottingham. He has used his editorial scissors with much discretion, and we have, as yet, detected no mistakes in the letterpress. The printing and binding are both excellent. The price of the report is 2/10 post free.

16. The work of the Somers Town Blind Aid Society, which has been carried on most devotedly and regularly every Thursday evening, by Mrs. Starey, at Bedford Chapel, Charrington Street, N.W., has been transferred to the Hall of Tolmer's Square Church Institute, Drummond Street, Hampstead Road, N.W. The position is more central, and the hall is admirably suited for the weekly meetings. There are 320 blind members of the Society.

17. The annual report of the Gardner's Trust for the Blind, for the year 1905, appeared in the *Times*, *Standard*, and *Daily Telegraph*, of January 13th, and has also been printed as a booklet, with the names and addresses of the pensioners. The Committee, after referring to the opening of new buildings, and to extensions and alterations in existing Institutions, to the International Conference, and to the appointment of the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind, go on to state that the following disbursements have been made during the year :—

- 1.—£4029 towards the board and tuition of 117 scholars at various Colleges and Institutions, including three scholarships at £60 each, tenable at Oxford University.
- 2.—£2860 to 225 pensioners. There are 27 pensioners at £20, 68 at £15, and 130 at £10 a year.
- 3.—£3017 to 32 Institutions and Societies, towards the cost of new or enlarged buildings, general purposes, etc.
- 4.—£535 towards the fees for instruction of 52 pupils above the age of 16, at various Schools and Workshops.
- 5.—£271 to 38 individuals for assistance in starting, or carrying on, their trades as pianoforte tuners, basket makers, mat makers, chair caners, etc.

The Committee refer to their inability in future to make such large grants, as hitherto, for building purposes, and draw attention to the fact that the funds at their disposal for granting pensions are quite inadequate to meet the many pressing and urgent applications.

18. The 50th Annual Report of the London Home Teaching Society for the Blind was presented at a meeting presided over by Lord Midleton, and held on March 20th at the house of the Hon. W. F. D. and Lady Esther Smith. The speakers were the Bishop of Dorking, Canon Barker and Dr. Ranger. There are 14 blind teachers working in London, and 1929 names of blind persons are on the register. There is also a blind teacher for the County of Surrey.

19. The Annual Dinner in connection with the Royal Blind Pension Society will be held on April 30th, at the Hotel Métropole, when Mr. Edgar Speyer will preside.

20. The annual tea party, organised by the Hoxton Schools Society, for the blind children in the London County Council Schools, took place at Essex Hall, on January 26th, and being kindly favoured by an invitation, we had much pleasure in witnessing the children's supreme happiness. There were nearly 300 seated at tea, and as the older lads from Linden Lodge were accommodated in the gallery this year, there was more space in the hall for the band of willing workers to attend to their respective tables. Previous to the tea there was an hour's entertainment, which greatly delighted the children, especially the amusing recitations, excellently rendered by Miss Elsie Pogerty. After tea, which was provided by the "Westminster Gazette" Christmas Fund, there was a distribution of presents, including many useful articles of clothing which had been given by friends of the Society. The Sunbeam Mission, with its usual kind thoughtfulness, gave a present to each child, and this year it consisted of coloured boxes with pictures on them, each containing a Braille dotter with a cork nozzle, and some sweets, and round each box was fastened by an elastic band a booklet, with a coloured cover, in which was written in Braille the following:—

"Be useful where thou livest, that they may
Both want and wish thy pleasing presence still,
Find out men's wants and will,
And meet them there.
All worldly joys grow less
To the one joy of doing kindnesses."

* * * * *

"Oh, would you be a sunbeam
In this fair world of ours,
To give forth light and gladness,
And waken up the flowers?
Do deeds of winning kindness
To dear ones round the hearth,
But think amidst your sweet home love
Of lonely ones on earth.

And in your loving mission
 Let none forgotten be;
 Let insect, bird, and flower
 Be cared for tenderly.
 And so shall you be truly
 A little sunbeam bright,
 To shine with perfect loveliness
 And fill your home with light."

* * * * *

It is interesting to know that the 300 boxes were all covered by the kind hands of Mrs. Taylor, the mother of the Hon. Secretary of the Sunbeam Mission. The children came from, and returned to, their respective schools in brakes. All the arrangements were admirably carried out under the direction of Miss Rose Petty, Hon. Secretary of the Society, and the great success of the meeting is due to her forethought and untiring energy. She knew every one of the children by name, and presented to each a bouquet of narcissi and violets. Assuredly the blind children must look on her as their Fairy Godmother for organising year by year so successfully such a pleasure-giving entertainment.

21. A series of concerts, gymnastic displays, sales of work etc., took place on the evenings of February 26th to March 9th, at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, and the performances were much appreciated by large audiences on each night. The excellent and well-selected programmes of music were different each evening, and included pianoforte solos by Mr. F. W. Priest, A.R.C.O., and Mr. A. Robbins, A.R.C.O., both of whom have been trained at the Institution. Mr. Stainsby gave lantern views, and the visitors, who numbered about 2,255, had an opportunity of seeing the pupils and day workers engaged in the various industries. The sales of goods amounted to over £176.

22. In our last number, and in previous ones, we recorded the fact that Mr. Hewitt of Belfast, Mr. Stainsby of Birmingham, and Mr. Pine of Nottingham, had all loyally worked on behalf of the Blind in their respective Institutions for twenty-five years. Now we have to chronicle the same fact about Mr. Colin Macdonald, who completed his twenty-five years in connection

with the Dundee Institution for the Blind on the 3rd of January last. The annual festival of the Institution took place on January 12th, when the inmates and their friends were kindly entertained at dinner by the President, Sir W. O. Dalgleish, Bart., who, however, was unable to be present. The dinner was followed by a musical entertainment, and at the end of the first part of the programme, Mr. T. Murdoch, who presided at the dinner, presented Mr. Macdonald with a handsome silver salver, and a purse of sovereigns on behalf of the Directors. He traced the growth of the Institution during the past twenty-five years, and stated that owing to the excellent management of Mr. Macdonald, who had gained the esteem and confidence of all, the workers had increased from 40 to 67, and the wages from £988 to £2,180 to-day. The following inscription is engraved on the salver:—"Presented, along with a purse of sovereigns, by the Directors of the Dundee Institution for the Blind, to Mr. Colin Macdonald, on the occasion of his semi-jubilee as Manager. Dundee, January, 1906." Mr. Macdonald thanked the Directors for their kind gift, the officials for their loyalty to him, and the Blind for their energy and interest, and stated that he had been extremely happy in his work. The blind workers also presented Mr. Macdonald with a silver lamp.

23. The following, composed by a blind man, and written in Braille, was sent as a Christmas card to Mr. Stainsby, of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind:—

Christmas is come again Christmas is here!
 May it bring you good fortune, good health and good cheer;
 And, to add to your joy, may you happily find
 True gratitude warmly expressed by the Blind,
 Who, under wise guidance and fostering care,
 Have their heavy affliction made lighter to bear:
 Through the boon—the most precious that e'er can be given—
 The gift of self-help, bringing blessing from heaven;
 That lifts up the spirit weighed down with despair
 Into regions of bracing and life-giving air,
 Where the genius of labour, inspiring the soul
 With courage and energy, points to the goal
 That is called independence—wherein are allied
 Self-respect, perseverance, and laudable pride.

But work, howe'er worthy, is oft better done
 When mingled at times with some sport and some fun ;
 And health-giving laughter both brightens the face
 And relaxes the strain of life's arduous race.
 So, dear Mr. Stainsby, this toast let me give :
 May you work well and laugh well, and long may you live ;
 And your name stand enrolled 'mong the best of its kind,
 As a helper and friend in the cause of the Blind.

24. The following is an extract from "The Railway Magazine," of February last: "An arrangement, which speaks well for the charitable and sympathetic disposition of those who control the Scottish railways, has recently been announced. It has been agreed between all the railways of Scotland that boys acting as guides to blind men will be allowed to travel at half the ordinary fare until they are 16 years of age."

25. The Committee of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society have invited representatives from other Societies, working for the Blind *Outside Institutions*, to gather for a one day Conference at Manchester, in the Central Rooms of the Society (Eye Hospital, Artillery Street, Deansgate).

Mr. J. Frew Bryden, Superintendent of the Mission to the Outside Blind for Glasgow and the West of Scotland (who was selected to read a paper on the subject at the Edinburgh Conference last June) will read a paper and assist in the discussion.

The proposed date is Saturday, May 5th; the proposed hours, 11 to 1 in the morning, and 2 to 4.30 in the afternoon.

The proposed subjects:—

- 1.—The employment of the Outside Blind.
- 2.—Methods of dealing with the Blind who cannot be employed.
- 3.—The advisability of a Union of Societies for Annual Conference and for mutual stimulus and help; and for other subjects to be considered, such as Homes, Pensions, Libraries, Clubs, etc.

Miss I. M. Heywood, Claremont, Manchester, is acting as Hon. Sec. It is hoped that the good example set in Manchester may be followed in other localities.

26. We understand that Lord Valentia has approached the new Postmaster-General with a view to cheapening the postage of literature for the Blind, and that though the reply was not favourable, his Lordship is now engaged in collecting facts relative to what is being done in this matter in Australia, Canada, and the United States.

27. Many blind women are finding knitting machines very useful in helping towards their maintenance. We know one woman who, although employed during the day in the brush department of an Institution for the Blind, spends her evenings and odd time at machine knitting with such good effect that she now has £20 in the Post Office Savings' Bank, and this amount is entirely the result of her knitting.

28. We have received a most interesting and full account of the Institution for the Blind, Zeitoun, Cairo, to which we hope to refer in our next number.

INSTITUTIONS.

Bangor The 23rd Annual Meeting of the North Wales Home Teaching Society for the Blind, was held at Bangor on November 28th, when the Bishop of Bangor presided. On the same day the Annual Sale of Work done by the Blind in the District was held, and realized £52, which was paid to the blind workers who made the various articles. There are three visitors, and 292 blind cases on the books. The Society's work extends to the whole of Carnarvonshire, Anglesey, Merionethshire and part of Denbighshire. There are in the library 1,340 volumes, of which 729 are in Welsh.

Bradford. The Annual Meeting of the Bradford Institution for the Blind took place on February 20th, when the 45th Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1905, was adopted. Eighty-six blind workpeople have been employed (33 in brushmaking, 34 in knitting and chair-caning, 13 in basket making.) The sales amounted to £11,835, being an increase of £920 on the previous year. The sum of £2,044 was paid in

wages to the Blind. A holiday fund, amounting to £106, was raised through the medium of the "Bradford Daily Telegraph" and 76 blind men and women were enabled thereby to go away for a holiday. Annuities are paid to 31 blind people.

Brighton. The Report of the Barclay Home and School for blind and partially blind girls, Wellington Road, Brighton, for the year ended December 31st, 1905, has been published and shows marked progress. Another adjoining house (No. 21) has been bought for £1,200 and with adaptations has cost about £2,040. The Home now consists of four houses thrown into one, and there is accommodation for 74 inmates. There were on December 31st 67 inmates, viz: 36 of school age and 31 above 16 years of age. There is a mortgage of £3,650 on the Buildings.

Exeter. The annual meeting of the West of England Institution for the Blind was held on February 28th, when the 66th annual report for the year ended December 31st, 1905, was adopted. On December 31st there were 52 pupils in the school and 19 outworkers. The sales amounted to £1002, being a record amount, and the blind workmen received £315 in wages and £71 as a supplementary allowance. Grants amounting to £110 were made from the "Poor Pupils' Fund," and £29 were granted to sick pupils out of the "Sick Fund." Reference is made to the alterations now going on in the old buildings and to the erection of a new workshop at a cost of £1200. Eight pupils passed the examination by the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

Forfar. The Annual Meeting of the Forfarshire Mission to the Blind was held on September 13th, when the 34th Annual Report was adopted. There are 137 blind persons on the roll. Reference is made to the library, the new monthly Braille magazine "Excelsior" brought out by ladies in Forfar, and to the appointment of Miss I. S. Lyall, formerly teacher in the school for the Blind in Oldham, as missionary.

Glasgow. The 79th Annual Report of the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind for the year ended November 30th, 1905 was adopted at a meeting held on January 15th. There

were 284 blind persons benefitted in being boarded, clothed, educated or employed, and the total sum given in wages and allowances directly to the blind amounted to £7,015. The sales amounted to £26,752. Pupils to the number of 91 passed through the school during the year, and 5 obtained 95, 94, 91, 90 and 88 marks respectively out of a possible 100 at the Trinity College examination. There left school 21 pupils at the age of 16, of whom 15 were transferred to the workshops. Attention is drawn to the extensive building scheme and the re-modelling of the residential department which are now practically completed. Legacies to the amount of £1,488 were received

Liverpool. The 115th Report of the Liverpool School for the Blind, for the year ended December 31st, 1905, shows that there are 59 men and 39 women at the Hardman Street School, and 52 boys and 27 girls at the branch school at Wavertree. Three pupils passed the examination of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and all obtained honours. A sum of £144 was granted to deserving old pupils for the purchase of tools, materials, etc. Legacies were received amounting to £2,400.

Manchester. The 6th report of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society for the year ended December 31st, 1905, was adopted at a meeting held on February 15th, in the Lord Mayor's parlour. The report shows great progress in all branches of the Society. The principal events of the year have been the closing of the Home at St. Anne's, the opening of the Home of Rest at Southport, and the addition to the Central Rooms. In the brush workshop there are 5 workers and 1 pupil, and the sales amounted to £1018. In the Braille writing department there are 25 writers, 3 correctors and 1 home teacher, and to these 29 blind workers £287 were paid in wages. In wool work 20 women and girls and 1 man have been employed, 2 men earn wages as bookbinders, and 5 men are learning to make and mend boots. In all 106 blind persons are earning wages or have been helped by the Society. There is a Sick and Benefit Branch, and the total amount paid to members was £111. In the Home for blind women there are 12 residents. Since the

opening of the Southport Home of Rest on May 27th, 208 blind guests have been received there from Manchester and the North of England. There are 2 blind collectors who collected last year £241 in subscriptions and £86 in donations.

Nottingham. The 61st Annual Meeting of the Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, was held in the new rooms at the Institution on December 6th, when the Report for the year ended March 31st, 1905, was adopted. There are 21 girls and 27 young men undergoing technical training and 40 workpeople and adult learners. The sales amounted to £7,042 and show a large increase over those of any recorded year. The blind workpeople received £1,196 in wages. The new wing and the alterations and extension of the existing buildings will cost about £10,000, and £2,000 in addition will be required for a gymnasium and the necessary furniture, tools and machinery. Old pupils received £107 to buy wool, willows, etc.

Reading. The 13th Annual Report of the Reading Blind Aid Society for the year ended January 31st has been printed. The register contains the names of 43 adult blind persons, all of whom have been benefitted by the Society. £225 were given away in pensions in addition to five tons of coals, clothing, etc. The town is now free of local blind beggars. There is an endowment fund with over £2,000 invested.

ESPERANTO FOR THE BLIND.

Many readers of this magazine may already know that a movement is abroad to introduce the international language known as "Esperanto" among all sorts and conditions of men throughout the world, or, at least, the world of Western Civilisation. But whether or not they have estimated the peculiar advantages such a movement is likely to give to the Blind, we have yet to learn.

For the uninitiated, however, we must answer the assumed question, "What is Esperanto?"

It is an international language, intended as a second, or

auxiliary language for all nations whose Governments will, it is hoped, in time make it a compulsory subject in their school curricula. It was invented by Dr. Zamenhof, of Warsaw, and was first brought out in 1887. It was ready some nine or ten years earlier, but for various reasons its author could not then publish it. Volapük made its appearance in 1881, and the temporary success which it enjoyed followed by its failure, made it all the more difficult for Esperanto to procure a hearing.

Why then should Esperanto succeed where Volapük failed ?

Because it fully answers, as Volapük could not, to the postulates for an international language laid down by the International Association of Academies. They are (1) That it must fulfil the needs of ordinary intercourse of social life, of commercial communication, and of scientific and philosophical relations; (2) That it must be easily acquired by persons of average elementary education, and especially by persons of European civilization; (3) That it must *not* be one of the existing national languages.

Esperanto can be used for writing or conversing on any subject; it is very easy, besides being both fascinating and interesting to learn. Being formed upon the roots of words common to most languages, many of the words are at once familiar to a person of moderate education. The grammar could be written in a nutshell, and practically admits of no exceptions. By means of a certain number of prefixes and suffixes, words can be built up to suit our own convenience, thus giving it the flexibility, or fine distinction of ideas for which it is noted. It is a strictly euphonical language, being written as spelt, and spelt as written.

What the boon of such a common tongue for all nations would be must be left to the readers imagination. It is to the Blind themselves that it appeals in a very practical way.

They already have a universal type—Braille. Why should they not accept a universal language which will open to them at once a medium of international communication with men and minds of all countries ?

What will the adoption of Esperanto do for the Blind ?

It will cheapen their literature. Everyone knows that Braille books are very expensive by reason of the comparatively small demand for them. But if most books—such as works on science, all technical subjects, history, etc., were written in a language common to the Blind all the world over, they could be printed off in much larger quantities in one or two central printing offices, and at a much less cost.

Again, it would obviate the necessity (except in special cases) of learning foreign languages, which must always be more difficult for the Blind on account of the expense of grammars, dictionaries, etc., and also on account of the unwieldy bulk of such books even in Braille. Esperanto has the smallest grammar and the smallest dictionary imaginable for a language to possess. Hence its advantage in Braille.

What the Blind do for the illiterate sighted people in parts of China, owing to Dr. Murray's adaptation of Braille as a numeral type for that country, that also may the Blind do for sighted persons of all classes throughout Europe and European speaking countries—become their teachers in Esperanto, if only they will adopt the language at once.

All particulars may be had by applying to the Secretary of the British Esperanto Association, 13, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C. An interpointed Braille monthly magazine is already issued by Mons. Th. Cart, 12, Rue Soufflot, Paris, entitled "Esperanto Ligilo" ("Esperanto Tie"), and subscribers are cordially invited.

HILDA E. BOORD.

SYDNEY INDUSTRIAL BLIND INSTITUTION.

(1880 to 1905).

By MR. H. HEDGER, *Manager*.

The immediate objects of the Institution are to furnish industrious blind persons with instruction in handicrafts, convenient rooms for working in, materials with which to work, and a place in which the manufactures may be advantageously sold, and to pay them enough to live on while they are being taught; to visit the blind in their own homes, to teach them

reading from embossed type, writing, and such handicrafts as may be practicable; to maintain a Lending and Reference Library of embossed books, and, as far as circumstances will allow, to adopt such measures for promoting generally the welfare of the blind as may from time to time be found advisable.

The Institution is not an asylum for the indolent or infirm, but is purely an industrial Institution, where those of the blind who are physically and mentally capable of doing work can receive efficient instruction and employment in trades suited to their capabilities, so that they may be able to support themselves.

I am afraid, however, that the objects of the Institution have not been attained. In regard to the first named, *i.e.*, the indolent. It would be unreasonable to expect that the Blind will be less subject to inertness than their more fortunate sighted fellows, and to my mind this is one of the drawbacks that Blind Institutions will always have to face.

It is impossible to treat a blind man the same as you would a sighted employee. The only remedy is to adopt the grade system, and pay the least to those who do not work up to a required standard. This plan, however, would seem to have its drawbacks, as it imposes on the teachers and managers the task of distinguishing between those who are habitually lazy and indolent, and those who may be very deserving and eager to advance themselves, but owing to various causes are incapable of doing much work. I always feel, in judging cases of this kind, that I would rather err on the side of leniency (even to loafers) than adopt a system of payment where there would be the slightest danger of injuring those who are thoroughly deserving of help. To help all who can and ought to help themselves has ever been the aim of the Institution, by rousing them from depression and gloom, inciting them to exertion in healthy occupations, inspiring them with a spirit of independence, self-reliance and hopefulness, and enabling them to mingle with their fellow men in the ordinary affairs of every-day life.

That the Institution has to a large extent succeeded, is evidenced by the fact that of the first three men admitted in the year 1880, two are still workers in the Institution.

In the matter of support we have an advantage over the Institutions of the United Kingdom, inasmuch as we receive a Government subsidy of pound for pound on all subscriptions. The committee are thus enabled to be extremely generous in the matter of payment to the blind, who are either incapable, or not energetic enough, to earn sufficient to support themselves.

The total amount of gratuities paid to blind workers during 1904 amounted to £810, and one will be able to judge by this that our workers are treated very liberally indeed. The question naturally arises why such a large amount is paid in gratuities, and whether this sum could not be spent to much better advantage in providing in some other way for a larger number of the blind.

There is certainly much to be said in favour of reducing the gratuities to the workers, and to inculcate in them as much as possible a self-reliant and sturdy independence. But it is only those who have had a lengthy experience in this work that can know and realise the difficulties that have to be contended with in trying to bring this about. The Blind as a class will always have the sympathy of the Public, and very naturally some of those who are lazy will trade on that sympathy, and use it to the utmost extent—many of them with formed habits, and without energy, and not a few who have been living in idleness, from which it is difficult to reclaim them. This Institution was designed to correct these evils, and furnish to the industrious blind, efficient instruction in work. Charity, therefore, except in its best form, that of teaching self-help, was not the sole motive. It was hoped by these means to rescue the class of blind beggars from our streets; and thus relieve passers-by from solicitations for which there is no longer any excuse. The majority of our workers, however, have been connected with the Institution for a number of years, and as far as their cleanliness, conduct, and living are concerned, would do credit to any establishment or factory; never causing trouble, and always

striving their best to do as much as possible in return for the benefits which they receive.

All our pieceworkers are paid a bonus to supplement their earnings, in some cases up to 75%. This is a drawback every Institution for the Blind will have to face. No matter how keen the outside competition is, the wages of the blind cannot be reduced, but the difficulty in finding the money to pay this bonus is not so great in these colonies as it would be in the United Kingdom, where, as a rule, the Institutions are not so well supported by the General Public and the Government.

We experience, however, in common with kindred Institutions, a great difficulty in adjusting the supply with the demand. During the past three years our output has not been equal to the demand, and the result is that customers are often kept waiting a long time before their orders are completed, and very often orders for goods are cancelled.

Thus the Institutions are placed at a great disadvantage as compared with sighted Factories, where they can regulate the number of employees according to the exigences of trade; but with the Institutions it is very different, as no matter how great the demand is, the output cannot exceed the ordinary limit, because there is no blind man available who could be engaged when required to meet a rush in the demand for goods; and the committee do all they can (and rightly so) to discourage sighted labour. These drawbacks, which do not affect sighted manufacturers, will always add to the difficulties of the successful and practical management of Blind Institutions.

The workers now in the Institution number 76, employed at the following trades:—Basket Makers, 18; Mat Makers, 16; Matting Weavers, 11; Bed Makers, 2; Brush Makers, 16; Halter Makers, 2; Chair Caners, 9; Home Teacher, 1—Total 76.

With respect to the conditions of admission for the destitute blind, I consider they are the most liberal in the world. At the outset, the Blind are made to feel that they are not paupers, and in every case destitute workers are paid a weekly wage of 14/- and clothes found if required. During the second year they

receive 15/-, third year 16/-, fourth year 17/6, and fifth year 19/-.

After five years a worker is presumed to have learnt his trade. He is then engaged as a journeyman and paid at regular rates, but there is a minimum wage, £1 a week for married men, and 15/- for single men, and if their earnings do not reach this sum they are made up to it.

If, however, a learner's earnings are not up to the required standard, or his conduct is not satisfactory, or if his work is unsaleable, he may (when the time expires for an increase) be kept on at the same rate of pay until his work and conduct improve; but, on the other hand, if a worker shows energy and proficiency, he may be promoted in one or two years as the case may be, so that a strong inducement is always held out to them to strive to do their best and to become competent and expert workmen within a reasonable time.

It is estimated that each learner costs the Institution something like £35 in actual outlay for wages, material and tuition, at the end of which time his weekly earnings will seldom exceed 5/- or 7/-. The material they require for learning is obviously wasted, and until they are advanced enough to make saleable articles, the loss must continue.

Constant work is assured, no matter how dull trade may be. They are never discharged except for bad conduct, and every effort is made by the Committee and officials to secure customers for goods, and thus extend the benefits of the Institution to as many blind people as possible. The sum paid during 1904 in wages and allowances amounted to £2,575 or about the total amount received in public subscriptions and Government subsidy; thus, if it were not for the Institution, many a poor fellow would have to spend his life in the destitute asylums or depend on friends (often in poor circumstances,) instead of being independent and restored to society, enjoying all the rights and privileges of free citizens. A few of them marry sighted wives and have families growing up, who in time should prove a source of comfort and help to their parents.

The workers who have relations are allowed to live with them, receiving in some cases during the first 12 months less

wages than those who are destitute and without friends. The latter reside where they please, the Committee reserving to themselves the right of objecting to any place of residence they may deem unsuitable; the prerogative, however, is seldom used, owing to the trouble it causes in dealing with private people who may feel hurt at their premises being objected to.

In time of sickness the workers are paid 15/- per week, with doctor and medicine free. The men pay 3d. a week for this benefit, and the Committee supplement this by an equal amount.

In every respect, therefore, the Institution endeavours to encourage a spirit of thrift and independence among its workers, and so carefully are the interests of the fund safeguarded that the workers themselves take a pride in watching its progress, and no trifling with it would be tolerated. It is creditable to those who belong to the fund that cases of imposture are practically unknown.

The Institution has a brass band of 17 performers, formed from among the workers, and they play exceedingly well, especially when it is considered that practice is limited to four hours per week. The Committee have never encouraged music as a profession among the adult blind, but as a means of recreation and amusement only. The industries are always placed first, the music being of secondary importance. There are two picnics every year, and the outing consists of a harbour trip and Athletic Sports. A swimming club, abandoned for the present, was formed to teach the Blind swimming, and many of them have shown proficiency in the art of natation. Several races have taken place in connection with the club, for which prizes were donated by the Committee and officials.

Another important work undertaken by this Institution is the teaching, free of charge, of reading and writing the embossed type, and of such light handicrafts as the Blind may be able to learn and carry on successfully in their own homes.

Wherever a fresh case of blindness is discovered, the teacher and his guide are sent, no matter how far the distance, by rail, steamer, or coach, to impart instruction in reading and

writing, and, after being taught, the blind persons are supplied with books from the library in their homes, free of charge. Thus the Institution helps to cheer those who are cheerless, and impart hope to those who are most hopeless. Our library contains more literature than any other Institution in the Commonwealth, numbering over 3,000 books. Some idea can be gathered of the work of this department when it is stated that during last year the teacher (who is blind) travelled 7895 miles in the State. The Institution also supplies Braille paper, Braille frames, maps, chess boards, and games of various kinds for the amusement of the blind.

The Institution has also purchased one of the latest stereo-type machines, with the intention of printing embossed books. This will open up a new means of employment for some of our blind. It will also enable the Institution to supply a class of literature not otherwise obtainable. The cost of this branch during 1904 was £325.

Our experience in the matter of trades suitable for the blind is probably that of most of the Institutions throughout the world. During the year 1902, I visited no less than 82 Institutions, in almost every part of the world, and from what I could learn of the leading trades taught in the Institutions that I visited, the proportion of the blind labourers absorbed by each trade was as follows:—Basket makers about 35%, brush makers about 25%, bedding and mat making 20%, chair-caning, cork fenders, fire-lights, wood cutting and wire working about 20%,

I have always placed basket making first, both as regards output and earning power, as an employment for the blind, and my opinion is borne out by the above figures. In speaking of the basket trade, I am fully aware that many of the blind who start to learn it do not succeed in becoming proficient, and have to be transferred to other trades which may be easier for them to acquire. In no occupation for the blind are keenness of touch and technical ideas so essential, as there are so many different shapes and sizes; and no matter how strong the article is made, if there is no symmetry about it, there is little chance of disposing of the work, and the expedient has to be resorted to

of sending it to the auction rooms, instead of selling it in the open market.

I always make it a rule to put the smartest pupils to learn this trade, recognising that they must be exceptionally smart to become expert workmen ; more especially as we do not encourage the use of shapes, except in connection with open work, where accuracy and symmetry is so essential.

I am glad to say that several of our pupils have turned out excellent workmen at this trade, and I can safely say that it would be hard to find better wicker work made by the blind in any part of the world.

Mat making, bedding, matting weaving, chair-caning, halter making are easily acquired. Any man of fairly robust health can be taught these trades in a very short time. With regard to the brush and broom making trade, it is fairly successful where the rougher class of work is required. Our experience so far in connection with this trade, goes to prove that it is not nearly so good a handicraft for the blind as basket making ; neither with respect to the earning power of the workers, nor as to the perfection of the work when made. The brush trade is also a very expensive branch to work. A large stock of raw material has to be kept on hand as well as manufactured stock.

To my mind the great drawback in this trade is the difficulty experienced in keeping the stocks clean, and setting the outside knots clean, and free from showing the dirty pitch. Occasionally you will get a man to set the outsides fairly clean, but in most cases it is generally found that they are very slow, and cannot earn anything approaching a living wage. The above remarks apply more particularly to hair brooms, and not so much to bass work, which is much rougher, and in which defects are not so easily noticed. If a man be kept to this particular class of work he can earn much better wages.

The "drawing" work in scrub brushes, &c., can be done as well by the blind as by the sighted. This remark applies more particularly to women ; some of whom do very well.

Taking the brush trade altogether, I am not a great admirer of it as a trade suitable for the blind, but as the trades for blind

people are so limited, we are forced to adopt those which are at present the most practicable to work.

During the year 1904, the following amounts have been paid to the Blind :—

Earnings paid to Blind Workers	..	..	£1618	19	10
Gratuities, to supplement earnings	..	..	812	16	5
Sick Pay and Medicines, and Subsidy to Sick Fund	..	..	..	62	3 7
Clothes and Gratuities	..	..	..	27	10 7
In support of Home for Blind Women	..	..	425	5	0
„ „ Teaching, and Circulating Library	..	..	325	15	11
„ „ Band Tuition	..	..	..	63	1 0
„ „ Picnics	..	..	..	26	10 0
Total			£3362	2	4

New books and Magazines, to the number of 180, have been added to the Library, and 2,277 volumes have been circulated.

While the income derived from subscriptions and government subsidy during the past six years amounted to £14,206, the amount paid direct to, and in support of the Blind during the same period amounted to £18,172, or £3,966 more than the income received from the above sources. This the Committee has been enabled to do as a result of trade.

These amounts are exclusive of the cost of management, such as maintenance, salaries, wages of sighted instructors for the Blind, &c.

We have a Home for Blind Women connected with the Institution, but, up to the present, we have not attempted a Home for Blind Men, although the idea has been discussed, and, I believe, in the near future that something will be done in this direction.

Our present system of dealing with boys is far from satisfactory, especially with those who come to us from distant country districts. There is a great moral responsibility resting on Committees in dealing with young lads, and there is no doubt that the public look to the governing bodies as their guardians. Too much liberty is allowed to boys when they enter the Institution to be taught a trade, and there is not sufficient control

over their habits and lives, which, if properly looked after would tend in the direction of making good men of them.

There are also those who, after having been taught their trade, find it impossible to support themselves on their earnings. Some of them are amongst our most respectable and deserving workers. In my opinion there are only two ways for providing for these cases:—(1) By establishing a Residential Home for destitute workers; (2) Or by securing board and lodging for them in private houses, paying for their maintenance, &c.

The idea, however, of having to enter a home, is distasteful to the Blind so long as they are granted money enough to support themselves outside. They prefer to live without any restriction such as would be necessary and essential in a well regulated Home, and unless street begging was prohibited by law, the expense of conducting and managing a Home separate from the Institution would be too great, and out of all proportion to the few people who would avail themselves of it as, owing to the amount of sympathy extended to mendicants by an unthinking and generous public, the inducement to go on the street is too strong for many of the Blind to resist.

But it is obvious that as time goes on, a scheme will have to be devised to provide for cases such as I have referred to. It would certainly seem very hard to turn a man or a woman away who had been working for years, and whose conduct had always been satisfactory, and who may be able to earn something towards the cost of their maintenance in a Home, but insufficient to provide them with decent board, lodging, clothing, &c., outside the Institution.

As a number of growing lads are leaving their homes in the country, and being admitted to the Institution to learn trades, it is a matter for serious consideration whether they would not be better cared for in a Home, instead of being granted a monetary allowance and allowed to go and live where they please. The establishment of a Boarding House conducted on Home lines would prove beneficial in many ways to—

1. Young lads admitted to learn a trade, who have no parents or relations with whom they could live.

2. Learners who may be teachable, but incapable of earning anything near the minimum wage, and who might, under our present rules, be required to leave the Institution.

3. Those who have been taught trades, and cannot earn sufficient to maintain themselves.

4. Those who have worked a long time in the Institution, until they become incapacitated for work.

5. Those of the workers who can earn enough to pay their way, but who may prefer a Home, where they could live better and cheaper than in ordinary lodging houses. And, as time goes on, the benefits of the Home could be extended to all respectable blind persons, other than our own workers. Another fact that should weigh in favour of establishing a Home is that parents or relations of applicants who would not care to allow them to enter a Home, could reasonably be asked to provide for them at their own homes, the Institution providing instruction free until they could earn enough to support themselves.

Under our present system of payments, directly the Blind are admitted the parents always profess their inability to maintain them at home during their probationary period, unless they receive monetary assistance from the Institution.

I agree with Mr. H. L. Hall, of Philadelphia, when he says with regard to Homes: "If to a factory of this kind there is added a home where the men can board at a rate just to cover expenses, will we not have at least one practical solution to the problem of the support of the blind? Of course such a home would not be a money-making enterprise, nor could it be expected to be so. A man who has mastered his trade and feels confident of his ability to provide for himself, will naturally desire to live among his own people." Handicapped as the Blind are by a serious physical disadvantage, it is not strange that the percentage of failures is greater than with the mass; yet, most of their failures may be ascribed to defects of character and disposition rather than want of opportunity.

I believe I am right in saying that the absence of Boarding Homes in connection with our Industrial Institutions has caused many a poor fellow much hardship and suffering, whose only

fault may have been that he was afflicted with other disabilities besides that of blindness. So far as Australia is concerned no Institution for the Blind is complete without a Home attached, where they can receive good food and baths, which are so necessary for their health and cleanliness. With home influence they would be less subject to temptation, and consequently would live more regularly and happily. Amusement and recreation could also be provided. There would then be no excuse for begging, and imposing on friends often poorer than themselves would be prevented.

I am not an advocate for the Asylum or Barrack System being applied to the Blind. But what I contend for is absolutely necessary for a number of them who, unfortunately, are unable to provide for themselves decently. Instead of having to live in cheap and dirty homes, with poor food, they require, by reason of their infirmity, to receive better care, with plenty of wholesome and nourishing food to build up and strengthen their weakened constitutions.

The intermarriage of the Blind is becoming a serious question in Sydney, where there are no less than seven married couples living principally by begging. The Committee have consistently opposed this evil practice, and have framed rules with the object of preventing blind people from contracting marriages, but so long as the public give mistaken charity to able-bodied blind mendicants, and the police do not interfere, it is feared that this growing evil will be continued. The fact of the blind being allowed to beg is also a strong inducement or incentive for them to intermarry, because by this means only would it be possible for a blind married couple to earn a livelihood. The union of blind people produces further poverty, misery, and miserable dirty homes and neglected children; the latter, as soon as they are able to walk, are converted into guides, carrying tin boxes to solicit alms, or guiding their parents' organs along the streets. They both hear and see, and learn things at a very tender age which tends to depravity, and not unfrequently they grow up inured to all vices of the street, and many of them become mendicants themselves. I believe in the majority of

cases such unions do not result in happiness, either for the individuals or their offspring. In every case of intermarriage that has come under my notice during my 25 years' experience, the result has been a great increase of blind people and others depending on charity. If the Blind could only realise the untold misery and suffering that such marriages entail, they would hesitate and think twice before undertaking responsibilities that they cannot hope to provide for, and which must bring to them so much misery and hardship. Surely all right-thinking persons will agree that the intermarriage of the Blind is to be deprecated.

Hitherto not much has been done in Australia in the direction of the Saxon system, principally through the lack of suitable blind people who would be most likely to succeed in earning a living in their own homes. The Saxon system is undoubtedly very good in theory, but I candidly admit at once that I do not admire it to the extent that some people do; probably the conditions with the Blind in Australia are much easier than in countries of the Old World, where the Blind are greater in number, and the means of obtaining a livelihood much harder. Moreover, my experience of the capabilities and energy of the Blind, has taught me to be very sceptical as to the success of this system if it were adopted in Australia. At the same time I may say, that I know of isolated cases in these colonies where the Blind have succeeded in making a livelihood, with a little assistance from the Institution. We have placed two women and one man to work in their own homes; the Institution allows five pounds' worth of material to these people during a period of 12 months, and in all three cases we supply the work for them to do, buying it back at wholesale rates, less 5% to cover cost of booking, &c.

I prefer taking all the work that they can do, rather than the alternative of taking the surplus stock that they may not be able to dispose of. I have always opposed the idea of taking the surplus work, as it would be a dangerous precedent to establish, unless some means were devised by which it could be ascertained how much work each person had made every week.

There are many ways that frauds could be perpetrated on the Institution. For instance, it would be a very easy matter for a blind worker, after making and selling a reasonable quantity of his own production to his customers, to employ his family or other workmen in making up work, and represent to the authorities that it was the surplus he had failed to dispose of. I know of one case at least where this fraud has been attempted on us. The conditions attached to any scheme for helping blind workmen in this way, would have to be very rigid, and framed in such a way that fraud in this direction would be reduced to a minimum.

The difficulty, however, could probably be got over by fixing a limit to the amount of work to be taken, or perhaps, better still, by insisting on every worker purchasing his material from the Institution, and keeping a record of the people to whom they sold their work. I made exhaustive inquiries when I visited the Dresden Institution, but unfortunately the Principal was away, and I did not succeed in getting all the information that I wished to obtain. However, as far as the Commonwealth is concerned, the proportion of the Blind likely to succeed in making a living in their own homes will be very small, owing to the want of capital, business capacity, and energy, coupled with the fact that the country districts are as yet very sparsely populated, and I feel justified in stating that the great majority of the blind people in the Commonwealth will have to look to the Institution to provide work for them. Although it may be quite possible that the Saxon system has been partially successful in Saxony, yet it is a fact that cannot be denied, even by those who are most enthusiastic over this system, that there are many of the Blind in every part of the World who cannot depend on themselves. Workshops will always be needed for this class, who could never succeed in business, even under the most favourable conditions. In these days of severe trade competition and cheap manufactures, the great rush in the battle of life is severely felt, even among the sighted, and to run a successful and profitable business requires a man of exceptional energy and business capabilities.

Some few years ago it was thought that it might be necessary to dismiss some of the older workers, and induce them to make a start for themselves. I then compiled a manual containing instructions and useful information with regard to shapes, and sizes, and material to be used, weights, etc., in connection with the various trades taught to the Blind.

This book may prove useful to those who follow more than one trade when working in their own homes. It is quite possible for a man who has been taught basket-making thoroughly, to acquire several other simpler trades. Several of our basket makers can also make mattresses, horse halters, netting, and cane chairs. But I believe if they were removed out of the reach of those to whom they could look to for advice and instruction, it would be very necessary for them to have something in the way of a manual to turn to for guidance.

It must not be inferred, nor is it claimed, that the Blind can be taught by the aid of this book, nor is it intended to supersede practical teaching. The main object for which it was compiled is to give the Blind all the information possible, regarding trades other than those they have learned. I consider that no system such as the Saxon system would be complete without it.

As illustrating the difficulty of a blind person taking up work outside the Institutions, the Committee started a tea-agency, with the object of giving employment to a number of deserving men, who, through various causes were ineligible to enter the Institution to learn a trade.

Each man was given a quantity of 35 lbs. of tea to start, and allowed a credit limit up to £8, thus providing him with a capital of over £9 to commence business with. The tea was bought, packed in attractive tins and packages, and labelled from the Institution in $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. packets to 20 lb. tins, which were sold to the Blind at cost price, the profit averaging about 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ %. But I regret to say it has proved a failure, and the five men who were employed have practically given it up.

The principal cause which contributed to bring about the failure to make a living by selling tea, is the want of sufficient capital, which is absolutely necessary to enable the Blind to compete with the sighted canvassers employed by large firms, so as to

be able to give credit to customers. It is often found that people who are given tea on credit will never pay for it, and consequently the agents' little capital soon disappears, and in a short time the man is worse off than when he began.

It must be remembered that he has to secure customers to buy his tea, and practically makes a business for himself. before he can make anything out of it. Travelling expenses also have to be paid, including the cost of a sighted guide, and he must be decently dressed. A man of small means soon finds himself in difficulties, and consequently becomes disheartened before he has had a chance of giving the work a fair trial.

I am still hoping, however, that a more permanent scheme will shortly be devised, for men who are willing to take up this work. I believe it is capable of providing a decent livelihood for many a poor fellow, who may be incapacitated from manual work and is cut off from enjoying the benefits of the Institution. This employment should be confined to men who are not eligible to enter the Institution. I have read, and been told, that there are no less than 300 of the Blind earning a living in London by selling tea. I would esteem it a favour to be informed as to the system in vogue there, and also the rules and conditions governing the business.

According to the last Census (1902) there were 884 blind persons in the State of New South Wales. There is an increase of 119 males and 24 females over the Census of 1891, and the average age of the Blind is now 54 years. The most pleasing feature of the 1902 Census is that Infantile Blindness is decreasing in this State.

The proportion of the Blind to the Seeing population at the Census taken in 1891 was in New South Wales, 66; New Zealand, 43·7; South Australia, 77·1; West Australia, 108·6; and Tasmania, 112·6 per 100,000.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE BLIND.

THE BRADFORD INCORPORATED INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND,
NORTH PARADE, BRADFORD.

Sir,

19th March, 1906.

In your excellent magazine, "The Blind," I am glad to find

that a little space is being devoted to correspondence on such important matters as the early issue of Annual Reports, and the preparation of accounts. I believe that a friendly discussion and interchange of opinion through such a medium, would be helpful to those who are closely identified with the work, and also to others who have an interest in the welfare of the Blind.

As was stated by Mr. Stainsby in your last issue, there is an immense amount of work to be done (and sometimes by a small staff) at the close of each financial year, and yet if the Reports are delayed longer than three months, they lose much of their interest and in many cases are probably placed on one side without even being read.

The Report of this Institution for the year ended December 31st, 1905, a copy of which I send herewith, has been made up as follows: January 23rd, Stocktaking completed, entered up, and books signed. February 5th, Audit completed, Balance Sheets made out, and signed by the Accountant. February 7th, Report and Balance Sheet approved by the Committee. February 20th, Report and Balance Sheet adopted by the Annual General Meeting. March 19th, Full Report printed and copy sent to the Editor of "The Blind." I am glad to be able to send the Report within the time you mentioned.

Surely there cannot be any objection to making up the accounts so that the wages paid to the Blind are clearly shown. We have shown the wages paid to the Blind at this Institution since 1901, in a synopsis at the end of the Report, and for last year we have printed the amount separately in the Trading account.

I should like to suggest, Sir, that you should invite an expression of opinion as to the desirability of Institutions adopting a uniform system of accounts, or, if that would be too great a change, that suggestions be offered as to the best method of apportioning the fixed expenses, *i.e.* Rates, Repairs, Office Expenses, etc., between the different departments, or between the Trading Account, and the Charitable Account.

Yours truly,

MILES PRIESTLEY,

Manager and Secretary.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 35.

JULY, 20TH, 1906.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

A full and interesting account of the Institution for the Blind, Zeitoun, Cairo, has been kindly sent to us, and we have much pleasure in printing it, in order to show our readers what is being done for the Blind in Egypt. The Institution was founded at the suggestion of the late Mrs. Armitage, and has been, and still is, largely supported financially by her son and daughter.

An article by Mr. Pine on "The Government and Higher Education of the Blind" will also be read with great interest and pleasure by the Superintendents of the various Institutions, as the Board of Education's scheme, when in full work, ought to materially benefit the Institutions financially, and enable students to remain at school above the age of 16 years for further necessary technical instruction.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. It was only in our last number (par. 22) that we referred to Mr. Macdonald's valuable service of twenty-five years at the Dundee Institution for the Blind, and now we have to report his

long serious illness. We feel sure that he has the sympathy of our readers, and that they wish him a speedy and complete recovery in order that he may give his valuable assistance in trying to solve some of the difficult problems with which the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind, of which he is a member, are confronted. We are pleased to know that he has sufficiently recovered to return to his duties at the Institution, although he is still weak after his most critical operation 13 weeks ago.

2. It is with the greatest regret that we have to report that Miss Moon, daughter of the late Dr. Moon, inventor of Moon's type, is suffering from cataract of both eyes. The left one is far advanced, and will be operated upon shortly. We feel sure that our readers will heartily sympathise with Miss Moon on this unexpected hindrance to her in her devoted work on behalf of the Blind, and tender her their best wishes that the operation may prove most successful.

3. We regret to have to announce the death of Dr. Mascaro, of Lisbon, a most zealous friend of the Blind, who has given his name to a modification of the Braille system.

4. Mr. Albert M. Smith, an old Student of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, and now of St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, has passed Responsions.

5. At a meeting of the Committee of Gardner's Trust held on July 3rd, Mr. Herbert E. C. Lewis, formerly a student at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, was elected to a Scholarship of the value of £60 a year tenable at Oxford University. Mr. Lewis enters St. John's College in October next.

6. Mr. C. H. Frayling has been appointed the new Principal of the Jubilee Institute for the Blind, Auckland, New Zealand, and left England early in May to take up his duties.

He was appointed in 1900 First Assistant Master at the Exeter Institution, and previously he was an assistant at the Birmingham Institution. We hear that the erection of the new buildings will be shortly commenced.

7. Mr. Robert Leitch, a pupil of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, has been appointed Organist and Choir-master at St. Columba United Free Church at Kilmacolm, near Glasgow.

8. Mr. Frederick W. Priest, A.R.C.O., formerly a Gardner scholar at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, has been appointed Organist at St. Patrick's Church, Birmingham, and has been warmly welcomed and highly complimented by the Vicar.

9. Mr. David Griffiths, the first blind man to pass through the course of training at the Baptist College, Cardiff, has received a hearty and unanimous invitation to the Pastorate of the Baptist Church, at Welshpool. He has accepted the offer, and enters on his duties in a few days with every possible prospect of success and usefulness. His College career has been very successful.

10. Mr. Neville G. McWilliam, B.A., the first blind student at Sydney University, has passed his final Law Examination, and on May 7th was admitted to practice as a Barrister and was highly congratulated by the State Attorney-General and the Chief Justice. He is 23 years of age, was born blind, and is a native of New Zealand. Many were the obstacles put in his way by the University Authorities, who thought it impossible for a blind man to pass the necessary examinations to take his degree, but he triumphed over all. At the present time there are about forty blind graduates resident in Great Britain.

11. During the year 1905, at the Smith's Training College, David Rees took his Certificate, second year, and the Misses Dora Burrell, and Emily Johns passed the King's Scholarship Examination.

12. We regret to hear that Miss Gwendoline Butler, the energetic Hon. Secretary of the Birkenhead Society for the Blind, has most reluctantly had to resign her post, as she is leaving Birkenhead. Miss Butler has worked most enthusiastically since the foundation of the Society in 1899, and it must be most gratifying to her to know that she leaves the Society firmly established for the benefit of the Blind. Mrs. Marples, of Alfred Road, has been appointed Hon. Secretary in her stead.

13. Mr. Andrew M. Peden, a member of the staff of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, has successfully passed his Degree Examinations in English Literature and Logic, at Edinburgh University. In Logic he has particularly distinguished himself, having obtained the high distinction of being a prizeman, although all the 250 students were sighted except himself, and no privileges whatever were given him in the competition. At a meeting of the Directors of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, on the 5th of April, the fact of his gaining this honour in the Logic Class at the University was specially mentioned, and the Chairman and Directors expressed their gratification at the splendid result of his work. Mr. Peden is a native of Galston, Ayrshire, and his education up to the University stage was obtained there. He is totally blind.

14. The Rev. Jaffray B. Nicholson, who for ten years was Head Master of the School for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, is now Head Master of Senlac Preparatory School, Paignton, South Devon. There is a long list of references from well-known persons. It is a preparatory school for the sons of gentlemen, and boys are received from the age of six to prepare for the Public Schools or the Royal Navy.

15. Mr. Henry Stainsby, with his usual earnest zeal in endeavouring to find new fields of usefulness for the Blind, has obtained an appointment for one of his pupils, as operator in the telephone exchange of some large works. He has to attend to

three trunk lines from the exchange, one to town premises, and ten instruments in various parts of the works. The calls, therefore, are very numerous even for a sighted expert. The Managing Director of the works has written Mr. Stainsby to say he is much pleased with the lad, and has decided to keep him, and adds, "we hope this new venture with the Blind may be the means of other firms taking the same course."

16. The late Dr. Corbett of Droitwich has left a legacy of £10,000 to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the city of Worcester, to be invested and held by them in perpetuity, as trustees, for the purpose of granting twenty pensions of £12 10s. a year to such blind people in the city or county of Worcester as shall be of good moral character, and shall have resided in the county for five years.

17. We congratulate Mr. J. J. Plater, who is totally blind, on his election as Chairman of the Greet District Nursing Society. Last year, the nurses paid 5,079 visits to 170 patients. Mr. Plater has been connected with the Society since its inception, and has been a leading man in all parish matters for more than twenty years, being at the present time a Councillor, a Guardian of the poor, and a member of the Education Committee. When a member of the Burial Board, he initiated a scheme which benefited the ratepayers to the extent of nearly £1,000 a year.

18. We regret to hear that, in consequence of his leaving Egypt, Dr. Kenneth Scott, F.R.C.S., has resigned his place on the Committee as Hon. Secretary of the Institution for the Blind at Zeitoun, of which an account is given on page 400. Dr. Scott, who has taken deep interest in the Blind, not only in Egypt but also in England, and has rendered such valuable assistance as Hon. Sec., is succeeded in these duties by another member of the Committee, Mr. R. G. Brunton. Mr. Richardson, formerly basket foreman at the Wakefield Workshops for the Blind, was appointed manager about six months ago, and is in charge of the Boulac Workshop and Day-School.

19. We heartily congratulate Mr. Stone, Miss Dickson, Miss Dudgeon, and the assistants at the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, on receiving the following exceptionally good report from H.M. Inspector:—"This School seems to do better than ever it did before. The head master, Mr. Stone, has taken a very thorough hold of his duties. He receives most skilful support from Miss Dickson, while the three junior assistants are doing very promising work. The introduction of the new system of physical training under Miss Dudgeon calls for notice. It is worthy of remark that the pupils who have entered the School quite recently are already able to read, write, and count, and that those who are about to leave school will leave with an excellent general education, and with good training for some definite industry. In all ordinary school subjects the pupils acquit themselves quite as well as children of the same age who do not suffer from the same limitation, and have been taught in good schools. A few scholars, destitute not only of sight but also of hearing and the power of speech, have acquired an amount of knowledge which would seem incredible if it had not been actually tested. The Head Master's view that each pupil's last year at school should be mainly devoted to a training in the occupation which he or she intends to follow is worthy of consideration."

20. All the copies of the Official Report of the Edinburgh Conference have been sold, and there will be no more copies printed.

21. A meeting of the Committee appointed to organise the Conference in 1908 was held at the School for the Blind, York, in the morning of April 28th, when there were present Mr. Henry J. Wilson in the chair, Dr. Campbell, Mr. C. M. Collingwood, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. F. J. Munby, H. W. P. Pine, H. Stainsby, W. H. Tate, and W. H. Illingworth, Hon. General Secretary.

It was reported that Miss Hornby had resigned her office as a member of the Committee.

A letter was read from the Chairman of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, intimating the willingness of the Board of Management to co-operate in making the Conference a success.

Mr. Pine, Hon. Gen. Secretary of the Edinburgh Conference, presented the final statement of accounts, which showed a credit balance of £6, and reported that every copy of the Conference Report had been sold. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Pine for editing the Report, and also to the British and Foreign Blind Association for kindly supplying copies of the Report of the British Braille Committee for insertion in the Report of the Conference as an appendix.

It was decided that the Conference to be held at Manchester in 1908 shall extend over five days, of two sessions each, and that four sessions be devoted to papers from Colonial and Foreign countries—chiefly dealing with Technical Education and the After Employment of the Blind.

It was further decided to reduce the number of the papers read in order that there may be more time for discussion than was possible at the last Conference.

Further discussion on the question of a Central Bureau was deferred.

22. The 2nd meeting of the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind was held at the School for the Blind, York, in the afternoon of April 28th, when there were present Mr. Henry J. Wilson in the chair; Miss Heywood, Manchester; Mr. J. H. Hewitt, Belfast; The Rev. St. Clare Hill, Leatherhead; Mr. Meeson, Leeds; Mr. Priestley, Bradford; Mr. Stainsby, Birmingham; Mr. Stott, Edinburgh; and Mr. Pine, Hon. Secretary, Nottingham.

The Hon. Secretary submitted apologies for absence from Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Mullens, and Mr. Purse.

The Committee learnt with great regret of the serious illness of Mr. Macdonald, and on the motion of Mr. Pine, seconded by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, unanimously passed a resolution expressing their sympathy with Mr. Macdonald and his family, which the Hon. Secretary was requested to forward.

The Hon. Secretary read the questions which had been suggested by correspondence by various members of the Committee. The Committee carefully considered them, and drew up the approved list (as printed below), which the Hon. Secretary was directed to forward, asking for replies, to all Workshops and other Societies for the Employment of the Blind.

The question of a fund to meet the working expenses of the Committee, which was adjourned from the last meeting, was again considered, and, after some discussion, the Hon. Secretary suggested that each Institution for the Blind should be asked to subscribe £1 1s. to a fund for that purpose.

This was agreed to by the Committee, and the Hon. Secretary was authorised to ask for this sum in a letter to be sent out with the questions, and that contributions to the fund be solicited from any other persons who might be disposed to subscribe. The Hon. Secretary undertook to send out the letter and questions forthwith.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Committee at Bradford as soon as all the replies were received and tabulated.

Copy of approved list of questions :—

- I. Name of Institution or Society for the Blind.
- II. (1) Number in employment in your Institution. Males.
Females
(2) Number desirous of being employed. Males. Females.
(Please define exactly the area covered by this reply.)
(3) Estimated number who will complete their training each year, whether pupils or adults.
- III. What trades are practised in your Institution, and how many *paid* workers, exclusive of apprentices, are employed in each ?
- IV. Which trades or employments do you advocate as being the most advantageous or remunerative ?
- V. Do you supply goods by Government contract, or by those of other bodies ? If so, please give names, &c.
- VI. Are you in favour of Government support by orders for goods at average prices ?

- VII. Have you any scheme of superannuation for the benefit of those of your workers who are rendered incapable by reason of infirmity or old age ?
- VIII. (1) Please state the average weekly earnings of your workers of each sex for the past year, and the average augmentation, if any, and the average total.
- (2) What is the total amount you pay annually in supplement ?
- IX. What employments are found for men and women who cannot learn a trade ?
- X. Do Boards of Guardians or other Public Authorities pay for the maintenance and training of those at your Institution above sixteen years of age, and if so at what rate ?
-

23. We can only briefly report that the third meeting of the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind was held at the Institution for the Blind at Bradford, in the afternoon of July 7th, when there were present: Mr. Henry J. Wilson in the Chair, Miss Heywood, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Hewitt, Meeson, Priestley, Purse, Stainsby, Stott, and Pine (Hon. Sec.). Mr. Macdonald wrote that he regretted that he did not feel sufficiently strong after his severe illness to attend the meeting. The Hon. Secretary reported the result of his appeal for funds to meet the necessary expenses of the Committee, and presented in tabular form the replies which he had received from 52 Institutions, to the questions given above. A resolution was passed to the effect that the Government Departments should be approached with a view to a portion of the contract work being given to the Blind, and a sub-Committee was appointed to carry the resolution into effect.

24. An interesting account of the Sunbeam Mission Branch for the Blind was given at the Church House, Westminster, on April 28th, by Miss Beatrice Taylor, 39, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, S.E., the enthusiastic Hon. Secretary of this branch. She stated that it was started in the spring just

four years ago, and that the first question was where and how to find the blind children ; and the second, where and how to find Braille writing "sunbeams." The teachers in the schools, who deservedly receive warm thanks for their co-operation, solved the first question, and the second one was answered by spontaneous offers of assistance by both young and old at home and abroad, including a paralysed youth who learnt Braille on purpose to become a "sunbeam." Thus "neither distance from a child nor a fully occupied life, nor even delicate health hinders people from joining this branch and communicating with the children in Braille type." An unattached associate can join on payment of one shilling as entrance fee, and can forward the work by making useful garments, and by writing portions of Scripture or stories to be sent by the Hon. Secretary to children for whom a "sunbeam" has not yet been found. Mention was made of "one zealous little sunbeam, aged four, who dictates with much emphasis quite lengthy letters to be sent to her little blind child, aged six, and these letters are put into Braille by another equally zealous associate, aged 87." One of the workers attended the meeting to explain the Braille type.

25. We wish to draw the attention of our readers to the fact that that most comfortable Home of Rest for the Blind, Roe Lane, Southport, is open all the year round, and that blind guests from all parts of the country receive a warm welcome. The payment for men and women not resident in Manchester or Salford is 10/- a week. Application forms can be obtained from Miss Heywood, Hon. Secretary, Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, Claremont, Manchester.

26. We are pleased to hear that the Whitby Trust for the Blind has been founded, and that a sum of £500 has already been invested in 3% securities, thus providing three pensions of £5 5s. each for old and deserving blind persons in Whitby and District. In addition to this, the Marquis of Normanby has kindly promised to give two additional pensions of £5 5s. each as long as he remains a trustee, and Mr. Alfred Hirst, the

organiser of the Trust, one of £5 5s. There will, therefore, be six pensioners receiving £5 5s. a year. This is a good start, and promises well for a very useful career of the Trust. The Blind of Whitby owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Hirst for his persistent efforts not only in raising the necessary funds for this Trust and in starting a workshop, but also for his many and constant kind gifts and words of advice to all blind people in the district.

27. The annual general meeting of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind was held on May 11th, at the Æolian Hall, Bond Street, London, when the Right Hon. A. J. Campbell presided, in the unavoidable absence of Lord Howard de Walden. The first resolution was to have been proposed by the Right Hon. Augustine Birrell, but he telegraphed at the last moment to say that he was unfortunately detained in the House of Commons. The resolution, which referred to the success of the College, and appealed for more financial support, was proposed by Mr. Hayes Fisher, and seconded by Mrs. Westlake. The second resolution, viz., "That in the opinion of this Meeting the Government should be asked to provide Secondary, Technical, and other forms of Higher Education for the Blind, to begin at the age of 14, and continue for a period of not less than six years, in order to prepare the Blind to earn their own livelihood, and thus become useful independent members of the community," was proposed by the Bishop of Hereford, seconded by Lord Kinnaird, and supported by the Lady O'Hagan. The third resolution, which thanked the Hon. Examiners, the Principal, the Lady Superintendent, the Professors and Teachers, was proposed by Sir J. Stirling Maxwell, Bart., and seconded by Mr. Henry J. Wilson. The fourth resolution was proposed by Mr. W. H. Cummings, Mus. Doc., seconded by Mr. G. Rose, and supported by Dr. F. J. Campbell, viz.: Whereas Pianoforte Tuning furnishes a fitting and remunerative occupation for the Blind *if properly trained (but the latter condition is indispensable)* and whereas blind persons frequently seek employment as Tuners who do not possess the

requisite qualification, and therefore fail to give satisfaction, with the result that Blind Tuners as a class, are unjustly condemned as inefficient, "That this meeting is of opinion that every effort should be made to insure recognition by the public of the necessity for the proper training of Blind Tuners, and it is essential for Blind Tuners to qualify themselves by obtaining certificates of proficiency from expert technical pianoforte tuning authorities."

The College choir sang with their usual precision between the resolutions, and an overture (Weber's "Preciosa"), arranged for eight hands on two pianos, was beautifully rendered by Messrs. Brooker, Keily, Laurie (all A.R.C.O.), and Moyes.

28. The Rev. St. Clare Hill, Principal of the School for the Blind, Leatherhead, sent out invitations to an afternoon concert held at the new schools on July 3rd. There was also an exhibition of the pupils' work. We much regret that we were unable to accept the invitation kindly sent to us. We understand that the guests thoroughly enjoyed their visit, and much appreciated the excellent music rendered by the pupils.

29. The Committee of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind gave an "At Home" at the School in June, and the visitors had an opportunity of seeing the pupils, of whom there are 75, at work in the classrooms. Tea was provided and afterwards a concert was given by some of the children. The weather was perfect, and everyone seemed much pleased with the work carried on at the school.

30. The Annual Conference of the Scottish Outdoor Blind Teachers' Union was held this year at Paisley. There was a reception at the Town Hall and subsequently Provost Eadie delivered an address and gave a hearty welcome to the eighteen members of the Union who were present. Mr. C. W. Ness read an interesting paper on "Home Teaching and Libraries for the Blind," and Mr. Mathie on "Housing and Homes for the Blind," and discussion followed. There was much enthusiasm and genuine zeal shewn at the meetings.

31. The Annual Meeting of the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, London, W., was held on May 23rd, at Denison House. Sir Arthur Clay, Bart., presided, and the chief speakers were the Bishop of Kensington, Mr. C. A. Whitmore, Dr. Ranger, and Mr. Henry J. Wilson.

32. The President and Chairman of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, established 1793, have issued an appeal for £18,000 to provide for the re-construction and enlargement of the Institution at West Craigmillar and the improvement of the Workshops at Nicholson Street and Richmond Place, Edinburgh. On September 30th, 1905, there were 385 beneficiaries, of whom more than one half do not belong to Edinburgh, viz: in the Workshops 146 blind men and women were employed, at West Craigmillar there were 53 blind boys and girls, 30 blind women and 12 blind persons engaged as teachers, &c., and 136 blind persons were receiving from £3 to £10 a year in pensions. The total cost of the work at West Craigmillar, including new class rooms, sanitary arrangements, etc., is estimated at about £15,000, and the re-arrangement at the Workshops in Nicholson Street about £3,000. Plans of the Institution as it is, and as it will be after re-construction, are circulated with the appeal.

33. Our attention has been drawn on more than one occasion to the extra expense which has to be incurred by a blind undergraduate at his University examinations. It appears that he has to provide a competent amanuensis to read the questions and write the dictated answers, and, in addition, an invigilator, who must be a M.A., has to be present in order to see that the amanuensis does not assist the student. The usual fee for each of these men for one examination is £3 3s., and therefore the blind student has to pay £8 8s. instead of £2 2s. paid by the sighted one. Would it not be possible for some person to write out the questions in Braille for a small fee just before the examination begins? Or could not the student be admitted to

the examination room before the usual hour for the sole purpose of writing out the questions in Braille? And cannot most of the answers be written out with a typewriting machine? Surely there ought to be no real difficulty in removing this additional monetary burden from those who can with difficulty bear it, if the University Authorities carefully consider the question.

34. The students of the Nottingham Institution for the Blind have started this month a "Students' Quarterly Magazine," printed in ordinary type. The price is only 4½d. each copy, post free. The first number consists of 32 pages, and is compiled by the students of the Institution. The editor says that two principal objects are to be kept in view in the Magazine, viz.: (a) "to establish a wider knowledge of the Blind in the society of the sighted," and (b) "to consolidate all that has been published with regard to the work done by the Blind at this Institution." We welcome this courageous enterprise, and wish it all the success it deserves.

35. In regard to Esperanto for the Blind, Mr. Walter G. Hanbury, who is himself blind, writes:—"Esperanto is warmly welcomed by many sightless persons. Having Braille's international alphabet, one naturally desires an international language. Esperanto meets this want. For simplicity, ease, and usefulness, it is a worthy compeer of Braille's glorious system. Esperanto Braille now makes intercommunication between the blind of different nationalities very easy and attractive. We rejoice, and pray that it may be the two-fold tie to draw us closer together."

36. "The Blind Women's Industries," at Werneth Hall, Oldham, has completed its second year's work. The sales in the first year amounted to £133, and in the second year to £141, and the wages paid were £58 and £82 respectively. Miss Lees kindly provides the working expenses, and also a mid-day meal and train fares for the workers. Miss Millicent Field, who has been in charge from the beginning, is to be congratulated on such good and progressive work on behalf of blind women.

37. On April 22nd, the new premises of the Workshops for the Blind at Sheffield were opened by Mr. S. Roberts, M.P. The Corporation required 10 feet of the frontage of the old building for the purpose of widening West Street, and therefore the Committee decided to erect new buildings at a cost of £4,610, and with fittings about £5,000. Against this sum, £4,670 have been received in compensation from the Corporation. The new buildings consist of a handsome block, with a front in the Renaissance style. The salesshops, basketmakers' department, etc., are on the ground floor; committee room and women's workroom, etc., on the first floor; two large workshops, store warehouse, etc., on the second floor; and brushmaking department, etc., on the third floor. In the basement there are large cellars. The buildings are fitted with the electric light, with the necessary lavatory accommodation, with a stone staircase, and an iron emergency staircase.

38. The 26th Annual Meeting of the Homes for Aged Blind Men and Women, 77, Hanley Road, Crouch Hill, London, N., was held on May 31st. There are in the Home 113 inmates, of whom 60 are over 70 years of age, 16 over 80, several over 90, and one in her 103rd year. It is proposed to extend the Seaside Home at Southend, purchased in 1898, so as to enable more inmates from the London Home to have change of air.

39. A very successful conference, organised by the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, on matters relating to the Blind living outside Institutions, and in their own homes, was held at Manchester, on May 5th, when Mr. Gerald Peel presided. In the morning session Mr. J. Frew Bryden introduced the first subject, viz: "The Needs of the Blind outside Institutions." "The advisability of holding local Conferences from time to time, so as to put the Societies in line with one another, and to find out facts as to how the blind are engaged, what their needs are, and the best way of dealing with them—with the intention of extending, organizing, and unifying the work for the Outside

Blind." The discussion was opened by Mr. Ben Purse. In the afternoon session, Mr. Henry Stainsby introduced the second subject, "After Care." "The necessity for 'After Care' in the case of blind pupils leaving Institutions when their training is completed, and for co-operation between the Home Teaching and other kindred Societies with the Training Institutions, in carrying out a system of 'After Care.'" The discussion was opened by Mr. A. B. Norwood. The third subject, introduced by Mr. Miles Priestley, was "Employment," "The best means for giving Employment to the Blind who have not been in any Institution. Practicable suggestions as to employment for such persons." This discussion was opened by Mr. Siddall.

There were between 70 and 80 people present at the Conference and a Report of the proceedings, price 1/- each copy will be ready shortly, and can be obtained from Miss I. M. Heywood, Hon. Sec., Claremont, Pendleton, Manchester. The outcome of the Conference has been the formation of a North of England Union of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind with a Provisional Committee consisting of Miss Heywood (Manchester), Miss Nicholson (Liverpool), Miss Edith Wright (Wakefield,) Councillors Barker (Manchester), and Warner (Bradford), and Messrs. Munby (York), Niederhausern (Sunderland), Gerald Peel (Manchester), Pine (Nottingham), Ben Purse (Manchester), Story (Stoke-on-Trent), and Townson (Accrington). The Committee held their first meeting at York on May 26th, and appointed a Sub-Committee to draw up the Constitution. A circular letter has been issued and the recommendations of the Sub-Committee will largely depend on the replies thereto. The area of the operations of the Union will be the six Northern Counties of England and its object will be the promotion of such intercourse between the various agencies as may lead to the organisation, unification and extension of work on behalf of the outdoor blind. We wish all success to the Union and trust that by its means some of the difficult problems in regard to the outdoor blind may be satisfactorily solved, and then the blind will indeed owe a further debt of gratitude to Miss I. M. Heywood, who initiated this new

departure in England, and who is the enthusiastic and energetic Hon. Sec. of the Union.

40. The following books have lately been prepared by the "Moon" Society: "A Noble Life," in 3 vols., each 3/9; "The Call of the Wild," 2 vols., each 3/6; "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," 2 vols., each 2/5; "The Revolt of Mother," 1 vol., small 2/3; "Christmas Peace," 2 vols., each 2/-: "The Deacons Week," 1 vol., 1/-; also "St. Mark," in Armenian, 3/6; "The Collects," in Welsh, 2/2: "Kenilworth," (9 vols.) is in hand, and Helen Keller's "Optimism" is to be printed by special request.

41. We have received a most gratifying report of Mr. Hendry's successful work for the Blind, as Manager of the Institution for the Blind in North Adelaide. The sales in 1904 were £4,700; in 1905, £6,022; and in the year ended March 31st, 1906, £7,622. This is real progress in the right direction. There are 65 persons in the Institution, and 162 others are benefited by the Home Teaching Branch, and in other ways. Mr. Hendry, who is totally blind, is now organising industrial work for some of the 162 so as to enable them to do something towards their own support. Those of us who had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Hendry when he was in England, felt confident that any work entrusted to him would be sure to succeed.

42. A tea was given in the Guildhall, on May 28th, by the Lord Mayor of York, to 150 blind persons, including the pupils of the School, and after the tea a cordial vote of thanks was moved by Mr. F. J. Munby to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress for inviting all the Blind of the City to a tea and entertainment. Mr. Munby also referred to the first meeting held in York on the previous Saturday, of the Committee formed at the Conference held in Manchester on May 5th.

43. We are glad to see that the *Bradford Daily Telegraph* has again appealed for 2,000 shillings to provide a holiday at the seaside for 100 deserving blind men and women living in

Bradford. May the appeal be as successful as it was last year ! There is every appearance that it will be, as the response has been splendid. Why is not this excellent and spontaneous example followed by more local newspapers ? The kind-hearted editors are so busy that we feel sure that they only want the subject brought to their notice and they will respond at once.

44. We have received many most interesting reports and papers from Institutions for the Blind in the United States of America, for which we are most grateful, and it is with much regret that we are unable, through want of space, to refer to them in detail. The 74th Annual Report of the Trustees of the Perkins Institution for the Blind is a volume of 260 pages and has several excellent illustrations.

45. The International Association of Blind Students has just published, in Braille, its Fifth Annual Report, containing a system of contractions for Latin, and a list of works possessed by the members. The price is one franc, post free, and the Report can be obtained from the Secretary, Mons. Monnier, 10, Champel, Geneva.

INSTITUTIONS.

Bristol. (a) The 31st and 32nd annual reports of the Home for Blind Women, 9, Gordon Road, Clifton, Bristol, for the years 1904 and 1905 are printed together, and refer to the removal of the Home to its present premises and to the death of the Hon. Sec. Miss Tyndall, who worked most energetically to find, and to purchase, a suitable house. There are 13 inmates. The new home cost with alterations, furnishing, etc., £918.

(b) The 47th annual report for the year ended December 31st, 1905, of the Association for Home Teaching and Industrial Employment of the Blind, 65A, Park Street, Bristol, founded 1857, was presented at the annual meeting held on March 15th. There are three blind teachers who visit over 200

blind persons in their homes, and 30 women, to whom £255 was paid in wages, are employed in various industries. The sales amounted to £534. It was necessary to sell an investment to meet current expenses.

(c) The 113th annual report for the year 1905 of the Asylum or School of Industry for the Blind, Queen's Road, Bristol, was presented at the Annual Meeting held on April 3rd, when the Lord Mayor presided. Reference is made to the acquisition of a new Act of Parliament and the purchase of a site at Westbury, comprising over 12 acres of land, where it is proposed to build new schools and workshops. During the year there have been 92 pupils in the school and 37 outworkers and outpupils. A hostel has been opened with accommodation for 11 pupils and 2 mistresses. The sales amounted to £2,206, £715 were paid in wages to the Blind and about £170 in cash and kind.

Cardiff. The 41st annual meeting of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind was held on March 27th, when the report for the year ended December 31st, 1905, was adopted. The sales amounted to £2,237, of which £1,518 were received for baskets. The staple trade is that of coal baskets. Two blind collectors of subscriptions have been appointed. There are 26 blind men and 8 blind women employed, and the wages paid to the Blind amounted to £705. The sum of £35 was given to annuitants out of the Shand Memorial Aid Fund.

Carlisle. The 34th annual report of the Home and Workshops for the Blind of Cumberland and Westmoreland, Lonsdale Street, Carlisle, for the year ended November 30th, 1905, states that 21 blind persons have been employed, and that the loss on trading was £293. The annual meeting at which the report was presented was held on January 10th, when the Bishop of Carlisle presided. The sales amounted to £2,029. There is a Home Teaching Branch, and 130 people were visited.

Dundee. The 37th report of the Dundee Institution for the Blind, for the year ended March 31st, 1906, is published and states that at the close of the year there were 92 inmates (69 in the industrial and 23 in the educational depart-

ment). The sales amounted to £8,461, the wages to the blind workers to £1,956 and £180 were paid in the form of supplement to wages.

Hull. The 42nd annual meeting of the Hull Blind Institution was held on March 28th, and the report for 1905 was adopted. The sales amounted to £1,730. There are 20 blind men and 18 blind women employed, and of the latter 10 are inmates of the Home. The total number of baskets made and sold amounted to 15,919, chiefly due to the large sale of yeast baskets. There is a Sick Benefit Branch, and £60 were expended in relief. There are 209 blind persons on the books visited by a blind teacher.

Kent. In the 29th annual report of the Workshop for the Blind of Kent, 49, London Street, Greenwich, S.E., it is stated that a depôt for the sale of goods has been opened at Blackheath. The sales amounted to £1,457, and £643 were paid in wages to workmen. Legacies to the amount of £190 were received. One of the most important departments is the manufacture of fendoffs. There is also a mattress-making department.

London (a) The report of the Phoenix Home for Blind Women, 44, Alma Square, St. John's Wood, London, N.W., for the year ended December 31st, 1905, has been published. The Home is quite full, but the Committee state that, at present, they do not see their way to utilize a generous legacy left to the Home some years ago in securing a larger house so as to admit more members. Applicants have to pay £20 a year and are admitted between the ages of 20 and 55.

(b) The report for the year ended December 31st, 1905, of the Association for Promoting the General welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, London, W., shows a loss of £2,081 on the trading account, and refers to the difficulty of obtaining sufficient orders to provide constant employment for the blind work people. The sales amounted to £11,950, and £1,924 were paid in wages to the Blind. The gifts and pensions amounted to £1,227. On December 31st, there were 21 pensioners, 28 brushmakers, 29 basketmakers, 8 chaircaners, 1 matmaker, 6 firewood makers, 1 carpenter, 3 mattress makers,

and 1 in charge of dining room, making a total of 98 blind persons benefited. The removal of the factory to a cheaper locality is under consideration.

(c) The 24th annual report for the year 1905 of the West London Workshops for the Blind, 60, High Street, Notting Hill Gate, W., has been issued, and shows a loss of £333 on the trading account, an increase in the charitable revenue, and a surplus at the end of the year instead of the usual deficit. The sales amounted to £1,916; £693 were paid in wages, and £147 to supplement wages. The number of blind persons employed during 1905 was 37.

(d) The 68th annual report for the year ended December 31st, 1905, of the London Society for Teaching the Blind to Read, 10, Upper Avenue Road, London, N.W., was adopted at the annual meeting held on May 5th, when Mr. J. S. Fletcher, M.P., presided. There are 39 boys and 26 girls, *i.e.*, 65 pupils in all. The receipts in the industrial department amounted to £564, and in the embossing department £131. The Legacies amounted to £462. The journeymen were paid £212 in wages. Reference is made to the resignation of Capt. G. G. Webber, R. N., who was secretary for 20 years.

(e) The 23rd annual report of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E., for the year 1905 was presented at the annual meeting held on May 11th. The average number of pupils during the year has been 150. The reports of the examiners in music bear testimony to the high value of the instruction given. It is stated that 80 to 90 per cent. of the pupils who have gone through the full curriculum have become self-supporting and are occupying respectable positions in the world. There is an interesting and highly complimentary report by Sir August Manns. Five students took the Diploma of Associate of the Royal College of Organists, and one of Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music. Two students passed Responsions at Oxford and have entered the University. The Principal pleads strongly for the provision of Secondary Training and Education of the Blind by the Government.

Manchester. The 66th annual meeting of the Board of Governors of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester, was held on February 14th, when the report for the year 1905 was adopted. On December 31st there were 192 inmates, including 50 boys and 41 girls. It has been decided to provide a separate building for the children, and to purchase, subject to certain conditions, some property close by at a cost of £1,600, subject to an annual rent of £77. It is estimated that the entire scheme will involve an outlay of £20,000 or £25,000. Arrangements have been made for educating promising pupils up to 18 years of age. In the examinations by the Incorporated Society of Musicians, eight passes in music were gained by pupils. Constant employment has been found for 42 blind men and 10 blind women in the outdoor workshops. A sum of £913 was granted to ex-pupils and the outside Blind. An endowment of £10,000 has been received under the will of the late James Holden, and £2,314 in bequests.

Northampton. The annual meeting of the Northampton and County Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind was held on May 1st, and the report for the year 1905 was adopted. The sales amounted to £1,536, and £584 were paid in wages. There are 17 blind persons employed. There are four blind pensioners receiving 2/6 a week under the Phillips Trust. The loss on trading amounted to £332. There is a Sick Benefit Society with a credit balance of £22. The Working Men's Committee provided funds for the picnics, teas, etc.

Norwich. The report for 1905 of the Asylum and School for the indigent Blind, 132, Magdalen Street, Norwich, shows that on December 31st there were 55 blind persons on the books, viz., 33 in the Technical School, 13 in the Asylum, and 9 non-resident journeymen. The trade receipts amounted to £656, and £196 were paid in wages.

Oldham. The 22nd annual report of the Workshops for the Blind, at Oldham, for the year ended December 31st, 1905, was adopted at the annual meeting held on January 31st, when the Mayor presided. At present there are 25 blind

journeymen employed. The sales amounted to £4,110. A sum of £26 was distributed amongst the blind poor.

Sheffield. The annual meeting of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind was held on March 13th, when the report for the year 1905 was approved. The Institution has been in a state of transition owing to the building operations (v. par. No. 37). There are 10 pensioners who received £150 in the aggregate. There are 70 pupils in the School (35 boys and 35 girls). In the I.S.M. Examination, Grade 4, Piano, only two pupils in all Sheffield passed, one being a blind girl (May Smith). In Grade 3, Organ, the only one in all Sheffield who obtained honours was a blind girl (Gatherwood); and in Grade 3, Singing, May Smith was the only one who obtained honours. In the workshops there are 29 men, 10 women, and 4 learners employed. The sales amounted to £2,899, wages to the Blind £782, and bonus to the Blind £142. There was a loss of £207 on the trading account. There is a Home Mission, and also cottages for the Blind.

Wakefield. The annual meeting of the Wakefield and District Societies for the Blind, 19, Queen Street, Wakefield, was held on February 21st, when the fifth annual report for the year 1905 was adopted. The number on the books is 80, and of these 5 men work daily at the workshops, and 8 women work in or for the workshops. The wages amounted to £100, and the sales to £206. There is a Sick and Benefit Society, with a credit balance of £19, a Library, and a Home Teaching Branch.

Wolverhampton. The annual meeting of the Wolverhampton Society for the Blind, 17, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton, was held on April 6th, when the 31st annual report for the year 1905 was adopted. There are 173 blind persons in the district who are regularly visited by the blind visitor. There is a Sick Benefit Society with a credit balance of £130. The sales amounted to £1,260, and £441 were paid in wages to 19 blind men and 6 blind women. A sum of £20 was paid to sick and aged blind persons from the Horsman Fund.

INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, ZEITOUN, CAIRO, EGYPT.

(Communicated.)

The special object of the foundation of this Institution was to benefit the Blind of Egypt, and it was recognised that, at the outset, it would principally aim at giving them instruction in the usual branches taught in ordinary schools for the sighted; and would only gradually, and after some progress had been made in these studies, be developed so as to include any industrial or other training fitted to make the blind pupils to some degree self-supporting.

With this object in view, the only training in manual work given during the first year and a half, was in chair-making, for which class of work there is a great and constant demand in the various towns of Egypt. During the second year an experiment was made in teaching basket-making. An instructor was engaged for four days in the week, and for one and a half hours on each of those days; this arrangement was continued in a similar manner during the whole of the third year. As a result, it was found that it would be quite possible to teach this trade to Egyptian blind boys, and that there was a considerable demand for such articles as they could make; in the fourth year, therefore, it was considered necessary to advise the supporters of the Institution to increase the expenditure, so as to allow of the instructor in basket-making and chair-making to be engaged for his whole time. All of the pupils who were taught this branch made excellent progress during the time; but basket-making and chair-making require four or five years instruction before such proficiency is attained that it can become a means of enabling the Blind to be in a great measure self-supporting.

The Institution, whose work for the Blind is irrespective of race or creed, was opened in September, 1901, with six pupils; and during the first year a total of 12 pupils was received. This number was the limit allowed by Mr. and Miss Armitage at the time. The average number for this year was nine pupils, all of whom returned to the Institution for the following year.

The original proportion between Moslem and Coptic pupils,

was seven Moslems to three Copts; after a few months this was changed to seven Moslems and five Copts, but it has not been found possible, in practice, to adhere to any such proportion.

During the second year, the total number of pupils on the roll was 16, with an average attendance for the year of 14 boys, all of whom returned for the third year. Of these pupils during the second year, there were:—7 Moslems, 6 Copts, 2 Jews, 1 Greek. With the accommodation then existing, no more pupils could be received, and further sleeping-room had to be provided by building.

During the third year the total number of pupils was 24, giving an average attendance for the year of 17. The distribution of these showed:—11 Moslems, 10 Copts, 2 Jews, 1 Greek. Five of the pupils left during the year; three of these were Moslems, one a Syrian, and one a Greek, who left on account of ill-health. All of the others returned for the fourth year.

During the fourth year the total number on the roll was 30; and the average for the year was 22. Again the sleeping accommodation was found to be too limited, and an additional building was purchased adjoining the grounds of the Institution. The pupils during this fourth year were:—13 Moslems, 14 Copts, 3 Jews. Three of the pupils, all of whom had learned chair-caning, were expelled for misconduct; one left to be married, his father being well off; two left at the end of the year, and are supporting themselves by chair-caning (one of these latter is about to return as a day pupil, to continue learning basket and chair-making); two of these are awaiting the opening of the workshop; one ran away, he was originally a beggar-boy, and had only been in the Institution for four months; one, who had been only four months in attendance, left to make a special study of the Koran; and one who had been taught chair-caning left at the end of the session. The remainder, 17 in number, returned at the beginning of the present session (in September, 1905) which constitutes the fifth year.

It would be impossible to expect that any large number or

proportion of the blind pupils, since the date of opening (September 1st, 1901) could have already received sufficient training to enable them to support themselves; the period of instruction has been too short to fully equip them in any trade beyond chair-caning, and the special difficulties of organising such work in Egypt, have also to be considered. At the time of admission to the Institution the boys are, almost without exception, wholly ignorant in every way.

The following is a brief summary of the results attained during this period of four years (September, 1901—September, 1905):—

Thirty-one blind boys, aged on entrance from 7 to 12 years, have received an education fitting them to become intelligent pupils in the Industrial Department. It is found that they become better workers in this if they have previously received a fair grounding in the work included under Primary School education; so that the time so occupied must be regarded as a direct gain in preparing them for industrial work.

The age for admission at the time of founding the Institution was laid down as from 7 to 12 years old, and nothing has occurred since then that would give reason for this being altered.

Of the total number of these 31 pupils, 14 boys are proficient in chair-caning, and are able to use it for earning their livelihood, and four others only require a little more practice to bring them up to this standard; and further, 10 of these fourteen boys have made considerable progress in both basket and chair-making.

The Coptic pupils have received instruction in “chanting,” to qualify them to assist in the services of their churches, by which means many blind Copts are able to earn their livelihood. Through the work of the Institution, the blind pupils at the Coptic Patriarchate have received instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic, and some have learned chair-caning.

Several blind Moslem Sheikhs throughout the country have learned to read and write, besides other blind persons in different parts of Egypt.

Arabic books in raised characters have been supplied to the

School at the Coptic Patriarchate in Cairo, to the School for the Blind in Alexandria, and to two Schools for the Blind in Jerusalem, as well as to the pupils at Zeitoun for use in the Institution, also to several blind individuals throughout Egypt.

It is to be noted that until the founding of this Institution, there were no Arabic school books for the Blind in existence in a form which they could both read and write, as they now can do in Arabic Braille characters.

A Braille alphabet in Hebrew for the Blind has been produced at this Institution; it has been approved by the British and Foreign Blind Association in London, and is now in use in Jerusalem.

A Coptic Braille alphabet has also been prepared at the request of the Patriarchate, and is now in general use in Coptic centres throughout Egypt.

The following list represents the books embossed in Braille, and published by the Institution:—Arabic Primer; Arabic Reader I.; Arabic Reader II.; Arabic Reader III.; Arabic Grammar I.; Arabic Grammar II.; Arabic Geography (Definitions); Arabic Geography of Egypt; English-Arabic Primer; Arabic Arithmetic (in part); Coptic Reading Book I.; the Koran (Goz Amma), the Koran (Goz Tabarak) both fully pointed; Gospel of St. Matthew; Gospel of St. Mark; Gospel of St. John; Book of Psalms I. (1-40); Several of the smaller Epistles of the New Testament, Arabic Coptic Prayer-Book, Coptic Psalmody, Vol. I.

Considering the difficulties connected with the work for the Blind, the development attained within the period of four years from the founding of the Institution, is most satisfactory.

At present it is only possible to extend help to boys, as owing to difficulties caused by necessary observances, the education of blind girls cannot yet be undertaken. The funds being at the time derived from private sources, the number of pupils admitted and the accommodation available were necessarily settled in accordance with the wishes expressed by the supporters; the present buildings will only admit of a total of 35 pupils at the Institution, but sufficient space for further structural additions exists. Moreover, it was regarded as being

better to limit the number of pupils at first, so that the process of organisation might be gradually completed, and the working of the Institution be settled on such a clear and definite basis as experience proved to be best suited for the country.

Now that the income of the Institution is no longer derived from private sources, but is principally supplied from public ones, certain items of expenditure which, up to the present date, have been practically additional gifts to the working, and have not appeared in the accounts, must now be entered there. Included under this category are expenses connected with the Depot for the sale of goods, the purchase of further supplies of willows, the cost of zinc sheets for the continued production of books, &c. It was imperative that an experienced teacher in basket making and chair-making should be employed, and as the Committee were unable to find anyone suitable, either locally or on the Continent, one was engaged from England. Further, in order to devote proper attention to those of the pupils who have already passed, or will shortly pass through the Educational Department of the Institution, and to the other much larger number of blind boys and grown up persons, who either from age or other reasons cannot be admitted to the Institution as boarders, it has become necessary to organise a Workshop and Day School in Cairo, where they can attend for daily instruction in Industrial work, or carry on a trade which they have already learned. This separate branch is now established and is in full working order at Boulac, Cairo, with further accommodation for 24 day pupils. Besides basket-making and chair-making, and the re-caning of chairs which are now taught to the pupils, other varieties of suitable work will be introduced, such as mat-making, the manufacture of brushes, and other articles which the blind are capable of making, and for which there is found to be a local demand.

The present estimate of annual expenditure, for which appeal has been made to the public is £1,500.

Careful consideration was early given to the question of teaching music as a profession to the blind pupils. The decision arrived at was adverse to any such adoption, owing to the

unsatisfactory environs into which such occupation would, in Egypt, bring the boys when ultimately supporting themselves; and this opinion receives more emphatic support when attention is drawn to the already deplorably degraded position which the Egyptian Blind have occupied for so long, and from which it is one of the objects of the Institution to raise them.

In no case at all have any fees been paid by the pupils; and in only five instances, where the parents or friends were able to afford it, has any payment been made, the sum of P.T. 60 (12s.) per month having been received in these cases towards the cost of the pupils' food.

The pupils, as soon as they are competent and able to produce work of any selling value, are paid a certain proportion, and in Egypt it is always advisable to pay such remuneration to the parents or other responsible relative of the blind pupil, rather than to the blind boy himself.

Mr. W. R. W. Gardner is the Principal in charge of the Institution, the organisation of which has been carried out by Dr. Kenneth Scott, the Hon. Secretary; the necessary funds having been supplied though the generosity of the late Mrs. T. R. Armitage, and subsequently by Mr. F. R. Armitage and Miss Armitage, her son and daughter. The Institution, however, has now the advantage, during the last 18 months, of continuing its work under the direction of an influential local Committee, of which Mr. Arthur D. Alban, the British Consul in Cairo, is Chairman. The Khedive has accorded his patronage, and most valuable support has been derived through the kind interest of the Earl of Cromer.

Wide local sympathy and support is now being evinced in this valuable and well managed charity, for the establishment of which there was for a long time, most urgent call.

THE GOVERNMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND.

Much satisfaction will be felt throughout the country by those interested in the cause of the blind, at the manifest encouragement which the Board of Education is giving to higher education for the blind. The Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf) Act, which came into operation on January 1st, 1894, has brought many blind children under its influence, but as is well-known, nothing could, until quite recently, be done for them by the Education Authority in the way of training after sixteen years of age. The Education Act of 1902, however, has made this possible. This Act deals with secondary Education, and the provision which is comprised in Part II. is an exceedingly broad one. It briefly states that :—

“The Local Education Authority shall consider the educational needs of their area, and take such steps as seem to them desirable after consultation with the Board of Education, to supply or aid the supply of education other than elementary.”

This gives great latitude, and Blind Institution Authorities have not been slow to avail themselves, in the interests of the blind, of those elastic powers, while the Board of Education has shown a ready disposition to assent to the interpretation that the blind should be included thereunder. Education Authorities can, therefore, under this Act, with the approval of the Board of Education, make payments for the technical or higher training of blind persons over sixteen, and in many instances they are doing so. Indeed, the Board has shown a generous desire to assist in this way.

As is probably well-known to many of the readers of “The Blind,” the Institution with which I have the honour to be connected, gave up, in 1901, for reasons which I need not now specify, the charge of the blind under sixteen years of age, and since then, attention has been devoted entirely to those over sixteen.

The Institution, however, has not merely become workshops.

or a trading concern. It has been extended and improved at a cost of upwards of £12,000, and seeks now to provide a thorough course of technical training, including not only industrial pursuits, but also intellectual and physical instruction. The subjects taught are Music and Singing, Pianoforte Tuning, Shorthand and Typewriting, Basketmaking, Chair Re-seating, Brushmaking, Mat and Matting-making, Swedish Weaving, Hand and Machine Knitting, together with various suitable School Subjects, Woodwork and Gymnastics. Arrangements are also being made to introduce Massage, Bootmaking and possibly other employments. In looking through the "Regulations" of the Board of Education, it occurred to me that though a Blind Institution, it might perhaps be possible for the Board to recognise it as a Technical Institution, and accordingly, last autumn, with the approval of my Committee, I made such application, forwarding at the same time complete syllabuses of the course of instruction in the various subjects. Classes have been held and register of attendances kept from that time in accordance with these.

A very sympathetic reply was received from the Board, which stated that in order to be recognised as a "Technical Institution" under Section 35 of the Regulations, the course of work must include advanced instruction in Science or in Science and Art, and as it did not appear that this condition could be complied with, the Institution would be ineligible for recognition under that Section. The Board, however, thought that it might prove possible to recognise the course of instruction under Section 42 of the Regulations, provided it could be shown satisfactorily that the course afforded organised instruction in related subjects adapted to the technical requirements of the students. But as the proposed course was of a type which had not hitherto been accepted for grants under Section 42, and was a new departure, the question of recognition raised issues of importance requiring consideration and investigation. The Board, therefore, stated that it would ascertain by inspection the extent to which the work of the Institution might properly be considered as eligible for grants under the conditions of this Section.

Accordingly, two of the Board's Inspectors visited the Institution early this year, and made thorough enquiry, and Dr. Eichholz, the Special Schools Inspector, to whom so much is due for his intelligent and enlightened policy, and his helpful interest at all times, paid a visit the same week.

I was told that the application was the only one that had been made except one of a similar character from a Deaf Institution, and that the Board of Education was wishful to give it every encouragement. It was also stated that it was our action that stimulated the Board and had brought matters to a head, and that the Board had been giving the question special consideration, was framing Regulations to meet the case, and that a certain grant had been proposed.

The outcome is that there is a clear prospect of Government aid in a general scheme of higher training for the blind, a matter over which I am sure we shall all rejoice. Much has been accomplished by the operation of the Elementary Act, and the education of blind children is now well assured, but the position at sixteen, as was clearly foreshadowed, has hitherto been far from satisfactory, and was frequently one of grave difficulty and trouble. Now, however, if the Education Authorities will see fit to act generously in the exercise of the powers they possess under the Act of 1902, and the Government give the sympathetic assistance and aid, which I understand they are very ready to do, the position of the Blind, so far at any rate as education and after training are concerned, will be immensely improved in comparison with what formerly was the case.

H. W. P. PINE

*Superintendent and Secretary of the
Midland Institution for the Blind,
Nottingham*

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 36.

OCTOBER, 20TH, 1906.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

This number contains brief accounts of the death of a notable man, Mr. Michael Anagnos, of the very successful Speech Day at the College for the Higher Education for the Blind, Worcester, and of a visit to Moon's well-known Institution for Embossing Books for the Blind, Brighton.

With this number we complete our 9th year of Editorship, and, as our subscribers increase annually, we hope the publication supplies a real need. Intending subscribers for 1907 are requested to fill in and return to the Editor the accompanying Order Form, not later than December 20th, with stamps or P.O., value 1s. 2d., which will ensure the receipt of one copy of the four quarterly numbers to be published next year.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. We much regret to report the death of Miss Annie E. Holloway, on July 12th, in her 80th year. She always took great interest in the Blind, and was one of the foundresses of the Bradford Institution for the Blind. She was appointed Hon. Secretary to the Bradford Home Teaching Society, started in

1860, and collected a large sum of money towards the cost of the buildings for the Workshop, to which for a long time she paid daily visits, and often paid the workmen's wages out of her own pocket. She remained Hon. Secretary of the Society and Workshop from their inception until her death. Her funeral was attended by many members of the Committee of the Institution, and about 80 employees, the choir of the Institution undertaking the musical part of the service.

2. It is with the greatest pleasure that we are able to announce that Mr. Frederick W. Priest, a Gardner Scholar at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, and Mr. Horace Watling, a student of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, were both successful in obtaining the F.R.C.O. diploma at the examination of the Royal College of Organists held last July. The fact that only 36 were successful out of the 129 candidates who presented themselves, reflects great credit on Messrs. Priest and Watling, and their respective teachers. Mr. Alfred Harris, a Gardner Scholar at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, took the A.R.C.O. diploma at the same time, and has been appointed a Teacher at the Midland Institution for the Blind. It will be remembered that we recorded in these pages the fact that Messrs. Novello & Co. purchased from Mr. Priest the copyright of a Pastorale in D for the organ, and that he also composed a Cantata, entitled, "The Centurian's Servant."

3. Mr. Herbert E. C. Lewis, formerly a student at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, has done so well in Responsions that he has been exempted from the entrance examination by the Authorities of St. John's College, Oxford.

4. Our readers will be pleased to hear that the two operations carried out by an eminent oculist at Brighton in July and September for cataract on Miss Moon's left eye have proved quite successful. The right eye will shortly be operated on, we trust with equal success.

5. It is always encouraging to hear of the exploits of remarkable blind men, and we think that the following statement will interest our readers. Mr. John Grimshaw Wilkinson, of Burley, is 50 years of age, totally blind, and President of the Leeds Naturalist Club and Scientific Association. He was a tradesman in Leeds, and lost his sight through neuralgia when only 22 years of age. He was no mean artist before he became blind, and on visiting the scene where he had painted one of his most successful pictures, he was overjoyed to find that, although blind, he was able to recognise by touch the trees he had painted in the landscape. He at once decided to study botany, and obtained the standard works which his mother used to read to him. She also prepared all his botanical specimens. He has now summarised the information in several volumes of Braille. He can recognise any tree by touching or tasting the bark or leaf. It is admitted that he has complete knowledge of the trees in Yorkshire, and at the request of the Leeds Naturalist Society, he named and labelled the different trees in Roundhay Park. He also compiled for the Royal Agricultural Society, a list of the hundred most destructive weeds, with full details how to detect and destroy them. We venture to think that this is a wonderful record of determination by a blind man to overcome the necessary obstacles, and of great success in a field of science—Botany—in which one hardly expects to find a blind person. We are pleased to hear that the Leeds Naturalist Club has unanimously elected his aged mother, who has devoted her life to her son's interests and research, an honorary member of the club.

6. The experiment of willow-peeling at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind has proved that as an industry for the Blind, it is not a success, inasmuch as it does not furnish more than half a living wage, and it has been discontinued. All the boots and shoes of the pupils of the Main Institution and the Kindergarten Branch School are now made and repaired in the Boot Department. The same may be said with regard to the Stockings, etc., and the Knitting Department.

7. Miss M. A. Morris, of Dublin, and Mr. Leonard Cope,

of Birmingham, were bracketed for the 1st prize in Miss Smith's Work Competition prizes. We are not surprised at Mr. Cope's success, as we know how clever he is as a woodworker, and have a cabinet made and designed by him when a pupil at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind. He now works at his own home and turns out beautifully designed work, which meets with a ready sale. Many of the tools he uses are his own make. The article which won him the 1st prize was a brush and comb box, for a bath-room, with a mirror at the back, a bracket on either side of the box and a drawer underneath it. The material cost 2/5. We understand that Miss Smith, Holmwood, Weston-super-Mare, will offer prizes for work made by blind persons and will exhibit the work in March next.

8. A Service, entirely conducted by the Blind, has been arranged, to be held on October 18th, at St. Peter's Church, Wolverhampton, when the Sermon is to be preached and the Service taken by the Rev. Albert Tansey, of Market Rasen, Lincolnshire. The musical portions of the service will be rendered by the Choir from the Birmingham Institution for the Blind. The collection will be devoted to the Wolverhampton Society for the Blind, which benefits 170 blind persons in the district and provides workshops in which the blind are taught trades, a library, and a teacher for teaching the blind to read in their own homes.

9. Mr. Pine, of the Nottingham Institution, and Mr. Norwood, of the York Institution, started on September 15th for the Continent to make a tour of some of the best Institutions for the Blind, with the object of noting carefully the management of the Institutions and the training and employment of the blind in the hope of benefiting the blind of this country. They went by way of Grimsby, and examined the Institutions at Hamburg, Kiel, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Berlin, (where there are two fine Institutions), Steglitz, Dresden (the home of the Saxon system), Vienna and Hanover. They returned safely on October 10th, and we hope that they will print a report of their experiences which ought to prove beneficial in the interests of the Blind in this country.

10. The Sub-Committee of the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind consisting of Messrs. Pine, Priestley, Stainsby, Stott, and Wilson, arranged interviews for October 15th, with the Directors of Stores at the War Office, India Office and General Post Office, but the interviews which were held for the purpose of obtaining for the Blind a part of the Government Contracts, had not taken place before going to press, and therefore the result, which we hope may be favourable, cannot be given in this number.

11. A Meeting of the Committee appointed to arrange for the next Conference, at Manchester, in 1908, was convened for Saturday, October 13th, at the Office of the Gardner's Trust, London, but we had to go to press before it was held. We are pleased to know, however, that, thanks to the energy and the business-like qualities of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. H. Illingworth, the arrangements are well advanced and papers have already been promised from Mr. Yoshimoto, of Japan, Mr. M. de la Sizeranne, of Paris, Dr. Fraser, of Nova Scotia, and Mr. Green, of Missouri, U.S.A.

12. In our last number (par. 16) we referred to the Whitby Trust for the Blind, and we are now able to report that the Trustees held their first meeting last July, and appointed seven pensioners to £5 5s. a year each, the seventh pension having been kindly provided by the Marchioness of Northampton. Five of the pensioners reside in Whitby, and two in the country round. The combined ages of the three oldest pensioners amounted to 261 years.

13. We are pleased to hear that the Committee of the Oldham Tramways Company have granted to all blind persons the privilege of travelling on the trams at half fare. This concession is much appreciated, not only in Oldham, but by all those who are interested in the Blind. We trust that all municipalities will soon grant the same, if not greater, facilities.

14. Since the Blind and Deaf Children Act came into

operation on 1st January, 1894, twenty-three blind defective children have entered the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, and in every instance but one they were found to be so deficient in mental capacity that they could not be materially benefited by the training provided by the Institution, and had to be withdrawn.

15. "Kenilworth," in 9 vols., price 3/10 each, is now ready in the Moon type. Also Birthday, Christmas, and New Year Cards.

16. Excellent Christmas Cards for the Blind with raised designs and suitable words in Braille can be obtained from the Editor of the "Weekly Summary," Shere, Surrey. Also a Scottish Calendar for 1907, with a design of thistles on the cover, and a quotation from Burns' poems for each month, in revised Braille, 2nd grade. Price 1/1, post free. Amongst the Christmas Cards there is a nice one with a dog, and another pretty one with natural fern fronds, each with appropriate words and each, price 7d., post free. The latter card can be obtained at the same price in Esperanto. There is a pretty card with a swallow and verse, price 4d., post free, and also a small card (price only 1½d., post free) with a cross surmounted by a star and the words "A joyful Christmas. The Lord shall be to thee an everlasting light." Text books with texts and short devotional readings for every day of the month can also be obtained in Braille (interpointed) price 8d., post free.

17. The report of the Conference (to which we referred in our last number, par. 39), on matters relating to the Blind living outside Institutions, held at Manchester on May 5th, has been published, and is very interesting reading. Mr. Stainsby has printed separately his valuable paper on "After Care," which he well summarises in the one word "Workshops." Copies of the report, price 1/- each, postage extra, can be obtained from Mr. E. T. Chesworth or Miss Heywood, Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, Artillery Street, Deansgate, Manchester.

18. The constitution of the Northern Union of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind, referred to in our last number, par. 39, has been drawn up by the Sub-committee appointed for the purpose, and is as follows:—

1. The Union shall be called the North of England Union of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind.
2. The area of the operations of the Union shall be the six Northern Counties.
3. The objects of the Union are to promote such intercourse among existing agencies and individuals interested in the welfare of the out-door Blind, as may lead to the organization, unification, and extension of work on their behalf, and to the formation of Societies in districts where there are none existing—to the end that no blind persons in the Northern Counties may be left uncared for.
4. The officers of the Union shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, and a Central Committee, with Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary. The Central Committee shall consist of one or two representatives of each Society belonging to the Union subscribing not less than £1 1s. od. to its funds, such representatives being appointed annually by their respective Societies.
5. The Central Committee shall, from time to time, make rules for the government of the business of the Union.
6. There shall be an Annual Conference of the Union, in the month of May—at different towns—convened by the Hon. Secretary of the Central Committee, the local arrangements for the Conference being in the charge of the Secretary of the Society in the place where the Conference is held.
7. The financial year will commence on the 1st of January, on which day Annual Subscriptions will become due.

The first meeting of the delegates, nominated as representatives of the various Societies, will take place on November 6th, at 2.30 p.m., at the Institution for the Blind at Bradford, when

an Executive Committee will be elected and the Union put in working order. The Hon Sec. is Miss Isabel M. Heywood, Claremont, Manchester.

19. No less than three Bills on matters referring to the Blind were introduced last Session of Parliament, two of them by Ministers, viz.: (1) "A Bill to make better provision for the Elementary Education of Afflicted Children in Ireland," presented by Mr. Bryce, and supported by the Attorney General for Ireland. This Bill did not pass. (2) "A Bill to facilitate the transmission by post of books and papers impressed for the use of the Blind," presented by Mr. Sydney Buxton. At noon, on August 4th, the Royal Assent was given by Commission to this Bill, which will henceforth be known as the Post Office (Literature for the Blind) Act, 1906. The Act was printed on August 14th, and the Post Office Regulations thereto are printed below. The other Bill, which did not pass beyond the first reading, was presented by Mr. W. C. Steadman, and called "A Bill to provide for the Technical Education, Employment and Maintenance of the Blind," and was to be cited as "The Blind Aid Act, 1906." We understand that it is to be amended and then re-introduced at the earliest opportunity.

The following are the Regulations issued by command of the Postmaster General on August 28th, in regard to Literature for the Blind:—

"On and from 1st of September, 1906, papers of any kind, periodicals and books impressed in Braille or other special type for the use of the Blind, may be sent, prepaid by post at the following rates of postage;—For a packet not exceeding 2 ozs. in weight, $\frac{1}{2}$ d., exceeding 2 ozs. and not exceeding 2 lbs. 1d., exceeding 2 lbs. and not exceeding 5 lbs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. Any such packet, if posted unpaid, is charged double postage, if posted insufficiently prepaid, double the deficiency.

To be entitled to transmission by this post a packet must—

1. Consist only of articles specially impressed as described above for the use of the Blind, and may not contain any communication either in writing or printing in ordinary type.

except the title and table of contents of the book or periodical, or any enclosure except a label for the return of the packet.

2. Bear on the outside the inscription "Literature for the Blind," and the written or printed name and address of the sender.

3. Be posted either without a cover or in a cover open at both ends, which can easily be removed for the purpose of examination.

4. Not exceed 5 lbs. in weight, and 2 ft. by 1 ft. by 1 ft. in dimensions.

If any of these conditions be infringed, the packet will be treated as a parcel, and charged with deficient postage at the parcel post rate, together with an additional fee of 1d.

The use of printed labels with the necessary inscription is recommended."

We have thought it advisable to print these regulations *in extenso*, so that it may be clearly understood that no Association, Society, or person, has any monopoly for printing or selling the labels. Their use is only recommended and, therefore, a notice written on the packet by the sender of a book is equally valid. It would, however, be well to accede to the recommendation, when possible, as in the case of Societies, which despatch a large number of books by post.

20. The Blind of Monmouthshire recently organised a meeting to present an address and a testimonial to the Rev. J. Swinnerton, Vicar of Llandevaud, Monmouthshire, who for many years has devoted himself to work among the Blind. The meeting was held on August 30th, in the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Newport, and the testimonial was a most useful writing case. The address was as follows:—

"We, the Blind of Monmouthshire, desire to record our high appreciation of the noble work which you have so ably and so zealously for many years carried on among us, in connection with the Newport Blind Aid Society, and upon your own initiation.

"We are deeply grateful for your skilful and energetic labours in successfully conducting those movements which have been set afoot, for our spiritual, social, and pecuniary

welfare; for the establishment of others, which afford opportunities for the invigoration of the body, and culture of the mind, especially the Country Home Change for the Blind at Llandevaud; and for those innumerable little acts of kindness and cheering words it has been our pleasure so frequently to receive.

"Such doings have been the means of bringing light into many a darkened mind; gladness into many a sorrowful heart; and new hope into many a despondent life.

"Therefore, we beg you to accept this simple little gift, as a slight recognition of our esteem and regard for you, and as a token of appreciation of your self-sacrificing work on behalf of the Blind in general.

"May the all-wise Providence grant you yet many years of health and strength; and that you may find much happiness and grace in His service, is our earnest prayer."

21. The new workshops in connection with the West of England Institution for the Blind, Exeter, were opened on September 21st, and it was with much regret that we had to refuse the kind invitation to be present. At 3 p.m. the Ladies' Committee were 'At Home' to a large number of guests, and, after a reception in the pupils' dining hall, the guests adjourned to the new buildings in the rear of the premises, when, under the Presidency of General Sir Richard Harrison, they were formally opened by Mrs. Nosworthy, the generous donor of £1350 towards the total cost of £1550. Mrs. Nosworthy, to whom a lovely bouquet of flowers was presented by one of the blind girls, then unveiled two tablets with the following inscriptions, one in ordinary type and one in Braille:—

"This workshop was built and the buildings of the Institution were improved through the munificent gift of £1000 from Mrs. Maria Nosworthy, of Newlands, Dawlish, widow of William Nosworthy, M.A., Clerk in Holy Orders, and also of £200 from the Committee of the Gardner's Trust for the Blind."

Refreshments were afterwards provided, and a vocal and

gymnastic display was given by the pupils of the Institution. A tea was also provided for the journeymen and pupils.

The new building of about 70 feet $\times$ 18 feet is of two storeys, the room on the ground floor being used as a workshop for the journeymen, and approached by a separate entrance.

22. With the object of ascertaining the present condition of former pupils, the Committee of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind caused enquiries to be made of all who have entered and left the Institution since the Blind and Deaf Children Act came into operation on 1st January, 1894. The chief result of the enquiry was to prove that after the training of the pupils is completed, they can be best provided for in the future by being employed in an Institution Workshop. In proof of this, it is only necessary to state that the workshop employees received on an average 14s. 2d. per week, against 6s. 4d., the weekly earnings of the Home workers. The Committee have decided to systematically and periodically enquire into the state of, and endeavour to keep in touch with, all blind persons who have passed through the Institution.

23. The report for 1905 of the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W., founded 1868, is a succinct record of steady good work on behalf of the Blind. There is a marked improvement in the financial position, which shows that the income from sales of Braille goods, &c., amounted to the substantial sum of £2,777, and an excess of £707 of income over expenditure. The demand for the publications of the Association has greatly increased, and it is difficult to keep pace with the orders, notwithstanding the facilities provided by the power-presses, drying apparatus, and bookbinding plant. One hundred copies of a Braille edition of the new Methodist Hymn Book, which consists of 8 volumes, averaging 200 pages each, was delivered within five months from the commencement of stereotyping. This is a record time, and reflects great credit on the secretary and employees of the Association, when we know that in addition 27 new volumes and magazines have

been stereotyped in Braille during the year. The music and manuscript writers have been fully occupied, and have transcribed nearly 1,000 sheets of music, and nearly 100 other orders, including German, Latin and Greek transcriptions. The outside blind writers copied nearly 300 volumes. A list is given of 111 ladies and gentlemen who have been successful in obtaining the certificate for efficiency in Braille writing since the incorporation of the Association, and also a valuable list of nearly 600 ladies and gentlemen who kindly and gratuitously write manuscript books. Reference is made to the final report of the British Braille Committee, and certain resolutions passed in relation thereto, and the appointment of the "New Rules Committee," who have recently published the rules in regard to Grades I. & II., price respectively, 1½d. and 2½d. post free. At the end of the report is a useful catalogue of books and appliances with their respective prices, supplied by the Association. The above remarks are abundant proof of the increased energy which is now being shown by the Association in the interests of the Blind.

24. In reference to Mr. Pine's article in our last number, he writes us: "As we have been carrying on technical classes under complete syllabuses, prepared last autumn when I applied for recognition, I appealed to the Board of Education that they should give us recognition for the grant for the session of 1905-6 which is now past, and the letter I have received states as follows:—

"In view, however, of the representations contained in your letters and the favourable report of H.M. Inspectors, the Board have decided that such recognition can be accorded to the classes held at the Institution for the past session 1905-6 as from the date of opening."

You will see, therefore, that by this decision Technical Training is established for the Blind under Government recognition together with payment of grants over sixteen years of age, which is of course an altogether new departure."

25. The Report for the year ended June 30th of the branch for the Blind, Sunbeam Mission, is most satisfactory and shows

how rapidly the good work is extending under the kind care and inexhaustible energy of the Hon. Sec., Miss Beatrice Taylor, 39, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, S.E. There are now over 350 Braille writers, being nearly double the number of last year. It is difficult to imagine what joy and happiness and influence for good are brought into the lives of the children by the Braille writings of these kind and willing voluntary workers—real sunbeams.

26. That pleasant little country Home for the Blind, Llandevaud, Newport, Mon., has just received its 1111th visitor, and many more could have been received if there had been more funds available.

27. A piece of land of about three acres has been presented by Mr. C. H. Scott, a member of the Board of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, for the specific purpose of providing a new residential school for the Blind. Accommodation in the new school about to be erected will be provided for 85 boys and 65 girls, and the rooms now occupied by the children will be utilized for workshops and for technical instruction. The cost of carrying out the scheme in its entirety is estimated at £20,000 to £25,000. The site of the shop and workroom in Deansgate has been sold, and the proceeds thereof will be devoted to the cost of the adaption of the buildings at Old Trafford, where the work hitherto carried on at Deansgate will be continued, and in part to meet the expenses of the erection of the new school.

In regard to this matter *The Manchester Guardian*, of August 16th, says, that at a meeting of the Governors held on August 15th, Mr. Ralph Hall presided and that "the minutes of the Board of Management contained a record of the negotiations for the sale of the property in Deansgate belonging to the institution to Mrs. Ryland. The Board of Management provisionally offered to sell, and Mrs. Ryland agreed to buy the property for £14,000, possession to be given to the purchaser in March, 1907, subject to the consent of the Charity Commissioners and the Manchester Corporation. The Board of Management

also recommended that architects be invited to send in competitive plans for building a new school at Old Trafford, at a cost not to exceed £25,000; that the premiums be £100, £50, and £25, and that the competition be open to the Manchester Society of Architects.

The Chairman said it was not by any means a certainty that this purchase would be completed. The property could not be sold without the consent of the Charity Commissioners and the sanction of the trustees of the Asylum. They would have to wait probably for six months before they could be certain whether they would be able to dispose of the premises or not.

Mr. Councillor Royle, in moving the adoption of the minutes of the Board of Management, referred to the question that had been raised as to the price of the site. He pointed out that the Governors would have to obtain permission of the Charity Commissioners to the sale of the property. The Commissioners would insist on having an independent valuation made, and it would depend on that valuation and on the opinion of the Commissioners whether they were allowed to sell the property or not. It would be remembered that the Manchester Corporation originally conveyed the land to the trustees on very reasonable terms, but on the condition that they would not dispose of it without the Corporation's permission. That permission had been obtained, so that no obstacle would be raised in that direction. He presumed that most people were cognisant of the way in which the Governors proposed to spend the money resulting from the sale. They would utilise it for another institution which they considered would be very much more useful and would more adequately meet the needs of the day than the present establishment in Deansgate. Already, through the generosity of Mr. Scott, they had purchased an estate consisting of between two and three acres of land, on which they hoped to be able to erect a school for 150 residential scholars. At present, great difficulty was experienced in finding room for the applications made not only from Manchester but from other districts, and the Governors felt it their duty to do all they could to enlarge and improve the institution. The need

for the work of the school scarcely required to be pointed out. The public were grieved to see so many blind persons begging in the streets. This state of things was due largely to the fact that in their youth these unfortunate people were prevented from learning something by means of which they could earn or partly earn their livelihood. The Governors hoped that another generation would see a very material improvement in this respect. He thought it was necessary to again draw the attention of the public to the fact that the institution very much needed an increase of subscriptions. It was a common mistake to suppose that the institution was a very rich one. It was not rich when one took into consideration the claims made upon it. The Board of Management had to refuse every year a very large number of appeals for assistance made on behalf of needy blind people who were not inmates of the asylum. They distributed something like £800 a year in relief of the worst cases, but they could use three times as much money for this purpose alone. If they had this money to use they would be able to rid the streets of many of the blind people who were to-day seen in them."

28. In consequence of a suggestion from Lady Algernon Percy, an electrical communicating machine, for those who are deaf and blind, has been invented by Mr. Charles E. L. Menet, 27, Pepys Road, Wimbledon, London, S.W., to whom all communications should be addressed. The instrument consists of two parts, a transmitter and a receiver, worked by an electric battery, and costs £3 3s. The machine enables deaf or deaf-blind people, who know Braille, to communicate with each other at some distance, as the keys of the transmitter and the holes of the receiver both agree with the six dots of the Braille alphabet.

29. The Bradford Education Committee held a Conference last March with several ladies and gentlemen to consider the best means of training blind children. It was reported that the conditions of the homes of some of the children were most undesirable, and it was resolved that the Education Committee

be recommended to establish on a modest scale a residential Institution for blind children in Bradford, and that pending the provision of such an establishment, the children in unsuitable homes be removed at once to a residential Institution. In July, all the children from the School spent a pleasant fortnight's holiday at Ambler Home, Hest Bank. The visit took the form of a holiday school, and the head-mistress arranged that as far as possible the lessons should be given out of doors.

30. We have had the pleasure of reading the Twelfth Annual Report of the Victorian Association of Braille Writers, for providing literature for the Blind throughout the State of Victoria. There are now 190 working members, and during the year 1905, 211 volumes have been transcribed, and nearly 7,000 lent to blind people. A Magazine for the Blind, called "Odds and Ends," is edited and published by Dr. McBurney. Many sighted persons are at present being taught Braille writing free by the Association, with the object of transcribing books for the Library. Some blind persons are paid for re-copying works.

31. The New York Association for the Blind, which is the outcome of the Committee for entertainment tickets for the Blind, founded in 1903, was started only last November and is already doing excellent and progressive work under the energetic Secretary, Miss Winifred Holt, amongst the 6,000 blind persons in New York State. The Association's chief object is to assist them to learn a remunerative industry, and to find them employment. Under its direction a workshop for blind men has already been started at 147, East 42nd Street. Miss Helen Keller, on accepting the invitation to become a Vice-President wrote: "Opportunity to work is the boon the blind ask of their fellow men. Work, profitable work, robs blindness of its cruellest sting, it pervades our darkness with the light of joy and contentment. The object of our striving is very practical. The Association cannot open the blinded eyes to the light of day; but it can make darkness bearable."

INSTITUTIONS.

Birmingham. The 59th Annual Report of the General Institution for the Blind, for the year ended March 31st, shows that 673 blind persons had been benefited. There were 175 resident, and 8 day pupils, of whom 40 are in the Kindergarten school, 10 teachers, 4 canvassers, 76 day workers, 5 travellers, 1 clerk, 2 porters, 1 pianoforte tuner, 2 domestic servants, 14 old pupils assisted by materials, &c., to the amount of £58, and 375 adult blind visited and helped by two of the blind teachers. The sales amounted to £10,270, being £1,765 in excess of last year, and over £3,000, including £547 in augmentation of wages, were paid to blind pupils and workers. There are 85 blind workers engaged in the trading department. The legacies amounted to £819 and at the end of the year there was an adverse balance of £1,901, which was written off from the invested legacies account.

Dublin. The Annual Report for 1905 of the Richmond National Institution for the Instruction of the Industrious Blind, 41, Upper Sackville Street, Dublin, shows that at the close of the year there were 32 men and 2 women inmates, and also 33 outworkers employed in the workshops. The sales amounted to £3141, and £691 were paid in wages, which were supplemented by a further sum of £266. The inmates are maintained gratis in the Institution, and the outdoor workers are provided with employment and working clothes and have their earnings supplemented.

Glasgow. The 46th annual report for the year 1905 of the Mission to the Out-door Blind for Glasgow and the West of Scotland, 221. Buchanan Street, Glasgow, was adopted on the motion of the Lord Provost at a meeting held on January 26th. A superintendent, and six Missionary teachers, two of whom are blind, are employed, who keep in touch with 1545 blind persons (865 males and 680 females), in the West of Scotland. Although there are no workshops in connection with the Mission, 180 men have been enabled, by the help of the Mission, to earn something, averaging about 10/- a week,

towards their maintenance by some simple form of trading. There are 76 persons receiving pensions from 6/- to 12/- per month. Mr. J. Frew Bryden (the valuable Superintendent) gives an excellent report of the year's work, and truly remarks that its nature "is so much that of quiet influences and varied helpfulness, that it does not lend itself to figures or statistics. There were 10,604 visits made during the year, but such figures become full of meaning, because they record so many direct contacts with human need and suffering, and so many efforts to bring human sympathy and divine consolation to bear on it." On the roll of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Mission there are 417 women and girls of whom 140 are knitters, and 123 receive monthly alimnt. Last year £420 were paid for work done, and £315 in monthly grants. The workroom is at 1, Bath Street, where ladies come daily to read to the knitters while at work.

Leicester. The 47th Annual Report, for the year 1905, of the Leicester Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 50, Granby Street, Leicester, was adopted at the Annual Meeting held on May 24th. Constant employment was provided for 32 blind persons (17 men and 15 women), and the blind workers received £807, including £122 in addition to their actual earnings. The Sales amounted to £2,095. There were 211 blind persons on the register, who were visited by a sighted Bible Woman. Four aged blind women reside at the Cottage Home in Albion Street.

London. The report for the year ended April 30th, 1906, of the Surrey Association for the General Welfare of the Blind, 90, Peckham Road, S.E., shows a satisfactory year as regards finance, owing to special donations. The sales amounted to £1,460, and £710 were paid in wages to blind workpeople in addition to £124 expended on providing them with free dinners. The loss on trading account was £697. There is a mortgage of £900 on the freehold property.

Swansea. The 40th Annual Report for 1905 of the Swansea and South Wales Institution for the Blind, Northampton Place, Swansea, was adopted at the annual meeting held on May 30th. At the end of the year 76 blind persons

remained in the Institution and Workshops. A lease of the adjoining premises has been taken, and the Institution is now certified to accommodate 60 pupils. Another Workshop and Storeroom have also been built. A lady missionary paid 703 visits to the outdoor blind in Swansea and the neighbourhood. There were 19 employed at the Workshops. The sales amounted to £889, and £386 were paid to the blind journeymen. A sum of £362 was received in legacies. A list is given of blind persons, with their respective ages and addresses, in Swansea and neighbouring towns.

York. The 68th annual report for the year 1905 of the Yorkshire School for the Blind was adopted at a meeting held on March 16th, when the Archbishop of York presided. There were 71 children in the School on December 31st. The trade sales amounted to £4,521, and £182 was granted to former pupils, the aged, and other blind persons. The wages, salaries, and supplements paid to the Blind were £1,341, and a sum of £39 was granted to former pupils. There are 19 out-mates and 8 out-pupils. Legacies to the amount of £737 were received. The trade receipts at the Industrial Home, Scarborough, amounted to £464.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, WORCESTER.

It was with more than ordinary pleasure that we accepted the kind invitation of the Governors and Headmaster of the College to attend the Annual Speech Day and Prize-Giving, on Thursday, July 26th, because we had not previously had the opportunity of visiting the new College Buildings and because we wished to be present at the first Speech Day Festival held under the auspices of the Rev. Thomas Barnard, M.A., the new Headmaster. We felt sure that as he was a former student at the College, there would be a good rally of old students to

congratulate and encourage him on his recent appointment. That we were not disappointed in the muster of the "old boys" the following list of those who were present, is evident proof:— Rev. P. L. C. Nash, Vicar of Usk, Mon., Rev. W. H. Hamilton, Curate of Pidley, Hunts., Rev. G. C. Pope, Deptford, Rev. T. B. Dowdeswell, Treeton, Yorks, Rev. C. E. Bolam, Rector of Lusby, Lincs., Rev. F. T. Marsh, Rector of Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire, Rev. C. E. Medhurst, Vicar of Collingham, Yorks., Rev. H. J. R. Marston, Incumbent of Belgrave Chapel, London, Dr. A. W. G. Ranger, and Messrs. W. Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac., London, G. F. Mowatt, Keymer, Sussex, H. J. Warmingtton, Cambridge, A. Siddall, Rochdale, S. Dowdeswell, Churchdown, W. H. Dixon, Oxford. Allwerk, Oxford, Powell, Barnt Green, W. E. Lloyd, Cardiff, H. Underhill, Barnt Green, Osborne, F.R.C.O., London, Lewis, London, and Sidney Temple, London. Of the above Rev. H. J. R. Marston and Dr. Ranger are now Governors of the College.

The Headmaster invited all the former students by letter and they began to arrive at the College on July 21st, where a warm and most hospitable welcome was given by Mr. and Mrs. Barnard to each one as he arrived at the College in which most of them were accommodated.

The 26th of July began with a Celebration of Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral. There was a large congregation, but the address which was arranged to be given by the Headmaster, was not delivered then, but was given by earnest request after prayers in the evening, when a larger number were present in the new room at the College. Mr. Barnard took as his subject the College Motto, St. John viii., v. 12, and referred to the times when the late Rev. S. S. Forster was Headmaster. Canon Wilson, who has taken such keen interest in the College since he went to Worcester, and is the Governor elected by the Dean and Chapter of Worcester, kindly invited about 40 of the "old boys," present senior students, and friends to breakfast, and afterwards made some friendly remarks of welcome. The Headmaster and two of the "old boys" responded in appreciation of Canon Wilson's warm interest in.

the College. Then a cricket match followed, viz: Present v. Past students, but unfortunately there was time only for one innings of the present students, who scored 37, all out. Next year it is hoped to have the match on the day previous to the Prize-Giving. Lunch was served in the open-air to about 90 guests on the Malvern side of the College, where there is a splendid view. In the afternoon Lord Cobham presided, and the proceedings opened with excellently rendered Organ selections by Mr. W. Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac. (Oxon.) Then followed a Greek recitation by C. F. Waudby, a Latin recitation by H. S. Palmer, a song by H. A. Roberts and part songs by the students. The Headmaster presented his report, which was most encouraging, and which stated that he believed the crisis in the history of the College had passed and that there was every prospect of a prosperous future. He thanked the Governors for their cordial support and also for the appointment of the House and Finance Committee, to which Canon Wilson acted as Local Hon. Sec. with that enthusiasm and resourcefulness which were becoming so well known in Worcester. He also thanked the staff for their loyalty and the former students for mustering so strongly. Reference was also made to the new room which has been erected, to the re-erection of the Organ in it and to the fact that the College was now paying its way. Canon Wilson read a most satisfactory report from the Examiner appointed by the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board, which stated that several of the students were above the average, and he added that £7,000 were required for urgent improvements and £13,000 for an endowment fund, partly to increase the present inadequate salaries of the masters. Canon Wilson stated that he was surprised at the exceptional results of the College training, and that out of 120 pupils 55 had graduated at one or other of the Universities, 30 were in Holy Orders, and the rest engaged in Legal, Musical, or some other profession. Lady Cobham was presented by the Headmaster's little daughter with a basket of lovely roses, and then presented the prizes.

Lord Cobham welcomed the four new Governors, recently appointed, viz: Canon Wilson, Dr. Ranger, Mr. Berkeley, and

Alderman Day, and alluded to the energy and devotion of the Headmaster, whom he hoped the unusually large gathering would encourage in his arduous duties. His Lordship then stated that an appeal for £20,000 would soon be issued, and he trusted that the response would be generous, as there was no other school like this in the world. The Rev. H. J. R. Marston spoke a few suitable words and welcomed the revival of Speech Day. Lord Cobham expressed his thanks to the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind for the ready and generous assistance they had always given, and referred to Mr. Wilson, the Secretary, who was present, and asked him to say a few words. Mr. Wilson thanked Lord Cobham on behalf of the Committee of the Gardner's Trust for his kind remarks, and congratulated the Governors, Headmaster, and Staff on the present prosperous condition of the College.

The Dean of Worcester in his usual felicitous way moved a vote of thanks to Lady Cobham for distributing the prizes. This having been seconded by Dr. Ranger and carried, Lord Cobham briefly replied, and the gathering broke up for tea, which about 150 people enjoyed on the lawn in most delightful weather.

At 7.30 p.m., there was Choral Evensong with Special Lesson, Hymns and Address by the Headmaster. Then followed supper and after that an impromptu Concert by the "Old Boys" which concluded at some unmentionable hour with Auld Lang Syne sung in cross hand ring fashion, and cheering which must have alarmed the neighbourhood!

Thus ended a long-to-be-remembered day, and too much praise cannot be given to Mr. and Mrs. Barnard for organizing, so successfully, such a splendid gathering, and for their ready kindness and great hospitality to all who came within the College walls. A debt of gratitude is indeed due to them for reviving the Speech Day, which was much appreciated by quondam pupils, who shewed much *esprit de corps* for their old school by attending in such large numbers, some of them bringing their wives with them. It is with the greatest pleasure we hear that the number of students, during the current term, has doubled that when Mr. Barnard was appointed Head Master. It was a matter of much

regret to us that, in consequence of arriving late and of having to leave early, we missed the opportunity, to which we had been looking forward, of a chat and hand shake with many of the former and present students with whom we had corresponded and whose careers we had been, and still are, watching with much interest and sympathy.

We have not referred to the new buildings because an account of them has already been given in these pages, but we were delighted with the healthy position of the College and also with the arrangements of the interior, which were fully explained to us by Mr. Harvie, one of the staff, who kindly took us all over the College. The new room in which the organ has been erected is a most useful addition and makes an excellent gymnasium and room for annual meetings. On a flagstaff on the top of the college the well-known Union Jack—the kind gift of Mrs. Ratcliffe—floated gently in the breeze on July 26th. May it fly for many years at these annual gatherings and may they be as successful as the one in 1906 !

H. J. W.

MICHAEL ANAGNOS.

Born at Epirus, Greece, November 7th, 1837.

Died at Turn Severin, Roumania, June 29th, 1906.

A deep thinker, a wise counsellor, a prophet of good, a great-hearted lover of mankind, a true and far-seeing leader of the blind along the higher paths."

In these words we have the description of one who has just passed away from the ranks of workers in the cause of the Blind, or rather we should more truly say a leader in those ranks. Mr. Anagnos succeeded Dr. Howe as Director of the Perkins Institution for the Blind, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America, thirty years ago, having six years previously married Dr. Howe's daughter. Under his administration the Institution maintained the extraordinary prestige bequeathed to it by Dr.

Howe, and became a veritable power in the land. "One of the first things he did as Director," says the *Boston Evening Transcript*, "was to present to the trustees a plan for the promotion of a fund of \$100,000 for the printing of books for the blind. The idea was new and not altogether popular. But as soon as the public understood it the \$100,000 fund was secured, and in 1882 was ready for investment. And now, in all the public libraries of the principal cities of the State, books for the use of the Blind may be found. Mr. Anagnos developed another idea which conferred upon him the title of the father of the kindergarten for the blind. He had always recognised the necessity for a kindergarten. Only children more than nine years of age were admitted to the asylum, and this was too late an age to admit of the best development of the child in the way it should go. Mrs. Anagnos, too, had this idea close to her heart. Her last words, now engraved in stone in one of the kindergarten buildings, were: "Take care of the little blind children."

Mr. Anagnos started a fair to secure a fund for the kindergarten with \$25. The fair produced \$2,000. In 1883 he appealed to the public, and in 1884 \$25,000 had been raised. The estate in Jamaica Plain was bought with the money and \$5,000 additional, and then \$45,000 was raised with which to build. In April, 1887, the building was dedicated, \$1,000 in debt, and one month later this money was all paid up. Then Mr. Anagnos raised an endowment fund of \$100,000 more. The kindergarten now has an estate, in land and invested securities of \$210,000. In 1882 the kindergarten endowment fund was \$4. To-day it is a million dollars. Under the administration of Mr. Anagnos the real estate valuation of the South Boston building increased to \$80,000. As manager of the kindergarten he received no salary, and paid his own expenses when he did any travelling in the interests of the Institution. He was a philosopher as well as a manager, and he devoted much of his time to investigation of the causes of blindness and the means of prevention.

By his unflagging zeal and enterprise, as well as his rare

economic interest in prosecuting new works, he built up the Institution for the future. It is amply provided and equipped with a complete gymnasium, spacious and elegant halls for the library (of about 11,000 volumes, both in raised type for the pupils, and of general literature for the teachers and for reading to scholars), and a whole upper floor of 238 feet in length and width of twenty-six feet for the musical department, including about thirty rooms in which piano pupils practice by themselves, with larger rooms for teachers and a large hall for the band and musical library.

Every other department has grown and developed under his direction until to-day it is an Institution of which the entire country is justly proud, as well as an enduring monument to the faith and devotion of two notable men.

In 1900 Mr. Anagnos went abroad to attend the International Congress for those interested in the instruction for the blind, although that was not his prime purpose. For a long time he had cherished the idea of doing something substantial for the cause of education in his native Greek village. Turkey does practically nothing for the education of its youth, while the little kingdom of Greece maintains an excellent free system. Consequently nearly all the schools there are in Turkey are due to the generosity of the more prosperous citizens who still reside in the country, or to the sons of those who long ago emigrated to foreign shores, and who for the sake of their fathers who loved their native land, take this means of encouraging the native youth.

Mr. Anagnos's gift is understood to have amounted to about \$20,000, to be invested in such a manner as to give a certain number of worthy students the benefits of a higher education each year. He also arranged a curriculum for advanced students, to the preparation of which he devoted much time.

Besides representing his own Institution at the International Congress at Paris, Mr. Anagnos, before leaving home, had been Commissioned by the Secretary of State to represent the United States Government, and thus was present in a double capacity.

At different times he made visits to Europe to see his

relatives and his native home, and he always took a profound interest in the Macedonian question.

He was all his life a scholar, and in 1899 was honoured by Harvard University with a degree of Master of Arts."

He was taken ill at Turn Severin, in Roumania, and an operation was decided upon, which one of the first surgeons in Bucharest came to perform, but it was, alas! unsuccessful, and Mr. Anagnos sank to his rest on the 29th of June, 1906. The last Report of the Institution he directed is now lying before us, and contains, in addition to a description of the ordinary work carried on there, a wonderful account of the progress made in the education of four blind and deaf mutes, who have been rescued from the sad fate that threatened them, and enabled to communicate with their fellow creatures and to be educated in mind and body as thoroughly as more fortunate children. What words can we find to do sufficient honour to the man who has carried on such splendid work through a laborious life? And how better can we mark our reverence and admiration for his accomplished work than by the ceaseless endeavour, each in our own path of duty, to go and do likewise? Mr. Anagnos had the pen of a ready writer, and in addition to the voluminous Annual Reports of the Perkins Institution, he wrote many pamphlets. One of these he sent us this year, and it is probably the last from his pen. It is entitled "Course of Manual-Training pursued at the Perkins Institution." Although we have often corresponded on questions relating to the Blind, we much regret that we never had the privilege of meeting him and of talking with him face to face.

H. J. W.



MOON'S SOCIETY.

On August 14th we paid a most interesting visit to the premises of Moon's Society for embossing and circulating books, etc., in Dr. Moon's type for the Blind, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton, and as our cicerone was no less than Miss Moon herself, the late Dr. Moon's daughter, who is devotedly carrying on the work initiated by him, we had the advantage of seeing the machinery at work and of having the various arrangements explained to us under exceptionally favourable conditions. Our debt of gratitude to Miss Moon was increased owing to the fact that she was barely convalescent from an operation for cataract. The Society was started just 59 years ago by the late Dr. Moon and since then the process of printing has greatly improved. Six hundred and seventy-five volumes in Moon's type, including the entire Bible, have been printed in English, and three hundred and two foreign books have also been printed in the same type. And now in addition to a regular increase in the output of new works, a monthly magazine, consisting of 20 pages and edited by Dr. R. C. Moon of Philadelphia, is printed in Moon's type. Since the Society was started, upwards of 256,370 embossed books, etc., including 9,373 volumes and first lessons during 1905, have been issued.

The premises cover nearly a quarter of an acre of land in which the work of Moon's Society is carried on. Each department is complete in connection with the producing and sending forth to the world the literature in the 'Moon type for the Blind,' which was invented by the late Dr. Moon and arranged by him into 400 languages and dialects. Each room in this establishment is arranged for carrying on one particular branch, namely, two rooms are used by the compositors for setting up the type, another room is used for making moulds from the type, another for casting the plates, and in this room also are placed the casting boxes. Further on is a large embossing room, where there are arranged three embossing machines, two of which are automatic, driven by electricity. One of these was made in America in 1884, the cost of it being met from a sum granted by

the Committee of Gardner's Trust, and the second has recently been made of greater power and on a more modern plan so that in future the increased call for books in Moon's type may be more easily met. The entire cost of this machine was last year defrayed by a grant from Gardner's Trust. Following the embossing room is one fitted up for drying copies when ready. Around all the rooms are stored away in drawers and shelves the 70,000 plates ready for use, and this number is every day increasing. In addition to the rooms mentioned there are a large binders' room, a stitching room, and a packing room.

It can truly be said of this establishment that there is a place for everything and that everything is in its proper place. All the workers employed are expected to place everything—especially the plates from which the pages are embossed—in their allotted drawer or shelf, and thus all confusion is avoided.

Nearly all the workers have been many years employed in this interesting work, and they all take a deep personal interest in what is being done. With the exception of three who have been employed only three years, the others have worked at this Institution for 20, 38, 45 and 58 years respectively—the one who has served the last mentioned period having assisted the late Dr. Moon quite in the early days of his work.

Dr. Moon placed the valuable freehold premises and plant of this well-known Society in the hands of Trustees, the late Sir Charles Lowther being one of the first with the late Dr. Moon, also the late Lord Mount Temple and the late Right Hon. James Lowther, M.P. As these passed away, fresh Trustees have been appointed with Miss Moon as Resident Managing Trustee, and Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

The call for books in Moon's type rapidly increases, and therefore more funds are needed to carry on the work. It is greatly to be hoped that such aid will be forthcoming when the need is more generally known, because the production of the books is very expensive and they have to be sold under cost price.

H. J. W.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 37.

JANUARY, 21ST, 1907.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

We are, and we feel sure that our readers also will be, deeply indebted to Mr. Norwood and to Mr. Pine for the graphic and interesting account of their recent trip on the Continent, which they have given us jointly in this number. Our request for the article was most courteously and promptly acceded to, although we felt that we were rather exacting in suggesting such a proposal. We venture to think that the work carried on in the part of the Continent they visited, has never before been so clearly and so comprehensively placed before the friends of the Blind in the United Kingdom.

In reply to enquirers, we wish to state that the second volume of "The Blind" will conclude with the number to be issued in October next, when an index will accompany it. There will then be 20 numbers in the second volume, as there are in the first.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. It is with much regret that we have to record the death, from acute bronchitis, of Miss Beatrice Taylor's father, Maj.-Gen. George Kepple Taylor, Royal Artillery (retired).

Miss Taylor is so well known as Hon. Secretary of the "blind" branch of the Sunbeam Mission for her devotion and zeal in the good work, that there are many who will join with us in expressing our deep sympathy with her in the severe loss she has sustained—not least the many blind children into whose lives she has brought joy and happiness by means of the "sunbeams!" We would also extend our sympathy to the widowed mother, who devotedly nursed her sick husband until her strength completely gave way.

2. It is with much pleasure that we are able to announce that the gracious permission of His Majesty the King has been granted to Mr. Kenneth Scott, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin., to accept and wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Imperial Order of the Osmanieh conferred upon him by His Highness the Khedive of Egypt, authorised by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey. Many of us know how intensely interested Dr. Scott is in all matters relating to the Blind; and the good work he has done in Egypt, where he went to specially study the diseases of the eye, was shown in an article we published in the number for last July, about the Institution for the Blind at Cairo, of which he was Hon. Secretary.

3. The Rev. Cecil Edward Bolam, F.R.Hist.S., Rector of Lusby with Asgarby, Spilsby, Lincolnshire, a former pupil at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, has been offered by the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral, and has accepted the Rectory of St. Mary Magdalene, in the City of Lincoln.

4. We heartily congratulate Mr. A. Pearson, a member of the Staff of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, on taking his B.A. degree at the last examination of the University of London. It is very satisfactory to be able to state that of the 300 successful candidates, Mr. Pearson was one of the 17 placed in the first division.

5. At the Government Examination, held in July last,

at the Smith Training College, the results were as follows :—
Teacher's Certificate—second year.

Former Students of the Royal Normal College and now Teachers under the London County Council, Alice Bartlett (with merit in Teaching); Mary Harper (with merit in History and Geography); Catherine Norris (with merit in Teaching).

Students of the Royal Normal College, Mary Balls (with merit in Teaching, English History and Geography); Grace Bussell (with merit in English); Gertrude Clements.

In the King's Scholarship Examination, Elsie Bansor and Dora Burrell were successful. The Board of Education do not now state the class in which the candidate passes.

6. Mr. John Hunter, a pupil of the Royal Blind School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, has been appointed Organist of Newburgh Parish Church.

7. We much regret that in our last number, paragraph 12, the name of the kind donor of a pension of £5 5s. to the Whitby Trust for the Blind was inadvertently given as the Marchioness of Northampton, whereas it ought to have been the Marchioness of Normanby.

8. A new edition of the pamphlet, "Information with regard to Institutions, Societies and Classes for the Blind in England and Wales," will be published shortly. All information will be brought up to date, and the editor will be glad to know of any new permanent work undertaken on behalf of the Blind during the last four years. The pamphlet can be obtained, price 4d., post free, from the Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The last edition, completing 8,000 copies, is out of print.

9. By arrangement with the Board of Education, an examination for Certificates for Blind Teachers in Elementary Schools will be held at the Royal Blind School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, in July next. Candidates wishing to sit for this examination should apply as soon as possible to the Headmaster.

10. The Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind have been at work for a quarter of a century, and have just issued their 25th annual report, to which we hope to refer in our next number. Two members of the original Committee are still on it, viz., Lord Kinnauld and Mr. Beaumont. The first elected Chairman was the late Lord Kinnauld. He was succeeded on June 13th, 1887, by Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr, who has been re-elected each year since then, and is still Chairman. The first Secretary, Mr. H. J. Wilson, was appointed on February 21st, 1882, and still holds that position.

11. On December 1st, the "Daily Mail" brought out a weekly edition in Braille, and while cordially welcoming any additional literature for the Blind, we regret that the announcement in the paper gave people the impression, no doubt unintentionally, that it was the first attempt to print and circulate a weekly newspaper for the Blind. We, who are specially interested in the Blind, know that this is not the case, but the ordinary reader does not know, as is evidenced by the many letters to the paper, and offers of subscriptions, in order "to bring a *weekly* ray of sunshine into the otherwise *blank* lives of the Blind among us." The italics are ours in order to draw special attention to those two words. We are glad to know that the Chairman of Gardner's Trust, on the part of his colleagues, wrote to the Editor of the said paper and drew his attention to the fact that two weekly newspapers in Braille had been in existence, and that there were nine or ten monthly magazines printed in raised type. People hitherto ignorant of what was being done for the Blind in the way of literature, and of the numerous free lending libraries with hundreds of books in Braille, but now attracted by the announcement, have learnt with some surprise that an excellent weekly newspaper in Braille, "The Weekly Summary," has been brought out for over 14 years, by Miss E. R. Scott and Miss L. T. Bloxam, Eltham, Kent, who have unostentatiously spared neither time nor trouble during all these years to provide the Blind with an interesting weekly paper containing all the

important current events. We hold no brief for these two ladies, nor have we communicated with them on the subject, but we feel sure that our readers would wish full justice to be done to their devoted efforts, and that honour should be accorded to whom honour is due. The subscription for the paper is 8/8 a year, post free, and we advise those who have not seen it, to order a sample copy, which will be sent post free.

12. A meeting of the Committee appointed to arrange for the next International Conference on the Blind, to be held at Manchester in 1908, took place on October 13th at the Office of Gardner's Trust, and there were present—Mr. H. J. Wilson (in the Chair), Miss Moon, Dr. Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill and Messrs. Barnes, Collingwood, Jones, Pine, Stainsby, Tate and Illingworth (Hon. Sec.) Apologies for absence were received from Rev. Thomas Burns, and Messrs. Bryden, Munby, and Plater.

The Hon. Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, and reported that Mr. Green, of Missouri, U.S.A., Dr. Fraser, of Nova Scotia, Mon. Maurice de la Sizeranne, of Paris, and Mr. Yoshimoto, of Japan, had consented to read papers.

A long list of suggested subjects for papers to be read was considered. Several of the subjects were eliminated, and the others were left for further discussion.

The Hon. Sec. reported that the Governors of Henshaw's Blind Asylum had kindly voted £100 towards meeting the local expenses of the Conference, that a large local Committee of influential persons was being formed, and that Lord Derby had kindly consented to be President of the Conference.

The reference from the last Conference to the Committee in regard to a Central Bureau was considered, and it was unanimously agreed that inasmuch as the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind had declined the offer to undertake such work, the British and Foreign Blind Association be approached in the matter, as directed by the Conference.

13. A further meeting of the Conference Committee was held on December 1st, at the Office of Gardner's Trust, when there

were present Mr. H. J. Wilson (in the Chair), Miss Moon, Dr. Campbell, Rev. Thomas Burns, Rev. St. Clare Hill, and Messrs. Barnes, Bryden, Jones, Pine, Stainsby, Tate, and Illingworth, (Hon. Sec.) Apologies for absence were read from Messrs. Collingwood, Munby, and Plater. The Meeting was specially convened to confer with the Executive Committee of the British and Foreign Blind Association on "The question of the formation of a Central Bureau," and the following members of the Association attended, Mrs. Von Braun, Miss Armitage, Capt. Towse, V.C., and Messrs. Merrick and Taylor.

There was an animated discussion as to the need of a Central Bureau, some members being strongly in favour of it, and others equally strongly against it. It seemed, however, to be generally agreed that a National Register, which was to form a chief part of the original scheme, was impracticable. After questions had been put and answered, the representatives of the Association withdrew, and promised to consider carefully the whole question at their next meeting, and send a written reply as soon as feasible.

The Committee then considered the subjects for discussion at the next Conference—a list of the subjects having been previously circulated and voted upon by the members of the Committee—and it was tentatively agreed that the following, which obtained the greatest number of votes, be selected.

1. Psychology of Blindness.
2. The housing of the Blind—Residential holiday homes, Secondary Institutions. Improved methods of Visitation and Home Teaching, and the promotion of After care and Visitation Committees.
3. Recreations for the Blind (as a counter attraction to the public-house, and the music saloon). Evening Classes — Nature Study — Gardening — Poultry Farming, &c.
4. Music. The qualifications and training necessary for those of the Blind for whom a musical career may be deemed most fitting, either as Soloists, Teachers, or Organists and Choir-trainers.

5. Ireland. The state of the Blind in Ireland, and how their condition may be improved.
 6. Pension Schemes for the Blind : their value and abuse.
-

14. A meeting of the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind was held at the Office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, on December 1st, at 2-30 p.m., when there were present—Mr. H. J. Wilson (in the Chair), Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Meeson, Mullins, Priestley, Purse, Stainsby, Stott, and Pine (Hon. Sec). Miss Heywood wrote regretting her inability to be present.

The report of the sub-committee appointed to approach the War Office, India Office and General Post Office, for the purpose of obtaining for the Blind a larger share of Government work was read, and it stated that the deputation was kindly and sympathetically received on October 15th, and that each of the Heads of Departments showed a disposition to consider the case for the employment of the Blind so far as their powers with due regard for the public service would allow, and to be willing to discuss the proposals of the deputation.

The result of a visit to H.M. Office of Works was also reported. The replies to the circular letters sent out by the Hon. Secretary on October 14th to the various Institutions, in regard to the sub-committee's interviews and action thereon, were read and discussed. The next meeting of the Committee takes place at Nottingham.

15. The Committee of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind have decided to teach telephony to suitable pupils. Instructions have been given for the installation of a new apparatus, consisting of two trunk lines to the Birmingham Central Telephone Exchange, and nine stations in various parts of the Institution. These stations will be connected by a switch-board, forming a private Exchange, and pupils will be trained to operate this Exchange. A former pupil of this Institution is already engaged at such work with a large firm in Birmingham, and giving complete satisfaction.

16. Mr. W. H. Tate, a member of the Committee of the Bradford Institution for the Blind, read a very valuable and interesting paper on "The Care of the Blind Poor," at the 24th annual Conference of Yorkshire Poor Law Authorities held at Leeds last November.

17. Miss A. B. West, Clyde Bank, Hayesfield Park, Bath, Somerset, requires for her Free Braille Lending Library, "Santa Lucia" for 1905, from chapter I. to December, 1905, of "The Castle of the Shadows," by Mrs. Williamson. Can anyone supply it?

18. The fees at the Institution for the Blind, Norwich, have recently been raised from £18 4s. to £23 8s. a year, and at the School for the Blind, Hardman Street, Liverpool, to 8/6 per week, and clothing extra for pupils over 16 years of age.

19. On November 13th, 14th and 15th, at the Chrysanthemum Exhibition, Birmingham, a concert was given each evening by a choir of past and present blind students of the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham. The programme which was well rendered, and much appreciated, included Haydn's Toy Symphony.

20. On October 9th, the "Bradford Daily Telegraph" Blind Holiday Fund Committee gave a tea and entertainment to the subscribers and the blind beneficiaries at the Institution for the Blind. Mr. H. C. Derwent, Chairman of the Committee, reported that in response to their appeal for 2,000 shillings, 2,483 had been received, which enabled them to send 98 blind persons for a holiday, being 22 more than in 1905. He also referred to the holiday for the blind children, and to H.M. Inspector's statement, that the children had "evidently derived incalculable benefit." A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the "Telegraph" for inaugurating the scheme. The musical portion of the entertainment was chiefly performed by blind persons, and the accompaniments were played by Mr. W. H. Tate.

21. The only Societies for the Blind which sent exhibits to the New Zealand International Exhibition, were Gardner's Trust

and the British and Foreign Blind Association. The Leeds Education Committee sent photographs of the School and Home for Blind and Deaf Children, and of blind children at work at a geography lesson, various occupations and typewriting, and also a page of a scholar's note-book showing typewritten exercise from Braille.

22. Recently, Mr. Hirst, of Whitby, received a letter and a cheque for £20 from Mr. John Melrose, of Uloomoo, with a request that the Braille books which he named should be bought and sent to the North Adelaide Institution for the Blind. The value of the books amounted to £37, but Mr. Hirst not only got Mr. Goode, a generous helper of the Blind in South Australia, to give the balance of £17, but also persuaded the Orient Company to deliver the large case free of all charge at Port Adelaide. The Blind of South Australia are greatly indebted to these benefactors for a large consignment of Braille books, which will give untold pleasure to many readers.

The Annual Meeting of friends of the Institution took place on September 28th, when the President of the Chamber of Commerce gave an eloquent address, and stated that £3,000 had been given in wages amongst the 64 workers, and that there were 1,200 books in raised type in the library. He paid a well-merited tribute of praise to Mr. Hendry, the blind manager, who has been associated with the Institution since its inception.

23. A memorial service for Michael Anagnos, who for 30 years was Director of the Perkins Institution for the Blind, and of whom we printed an obituary notice in our last number, was held at Tremont Temple, Boston, U.S.A., on October 24th, when General Appleton presided. The service consisted of Prayer, Chopin's Funeral March, Addresses, &c., &c.

24. We are pleased to hear that the work for the Blind in Barbados has rapidly developed during the past year. By the kind gift of a gentleman interested in them, the Society now has its own building, and a working and teaching centre. Several

blind persons are doing very well at tea selling and wood chopping. The Rev. W. H. Mayers, who initiated the work, is as active and sympathetic as ever on behalf of those who have lost their sight. The Society has sustained a severe loss by the death of one of the most promising workers, and a good Brailist, a young woman of 22 years of age.

25. Mrs. William Ziegler, widow of the late New York capitalist, has decided to publish a high-class magazine for the Blind, and to defray all expenses. The first issue, which will probably take place this month, is to consist of 6,000 copies to be sent to blind persons, free of all cost, and it is intended ultimately to deliver a copy free to every blind person in the United States who can read. The magazine is to be called the "Ziegler Magazine for the Blind," will be published by Mr. Walter G. Holmes, who visited England and Scotland last summer to see the various printing presses, and will be printed one third in American Braille and two thirds in New York point. When the requisite premises and plant have been secured, it is intended not only to print the Magazine, but also books for the Blind, and to have as many blind employees as possible—especially women. There are altogether about 70,000 blind persons in the United States, and it is estimated that about a quarter of them can read.

26. The Queen of Roumania, wife of King Charles, and well known as "Carmen Sylva" in the world of letters, has for some time past been collecting the Blind of her country, into one city, which has been called by Her Majesty "Vatra Luminosa," and here there is a church and a school. The Blind with their families are housed in cottages with small gardens, and are employed in special workshops in various kinds of work, such as brush-making, chair-mending, and the making of nets, rope, &c.

27. The Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association have unanimously decided not to undertake the duties of a Central Bureau. The Council have appointed Mr. Wilfred Mark Webb, F.L.S., Lecturer of Biology and Nature Study to the Surrey County Council, to be the new editor of "Progress."

THE MIDLAND INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, NOTTINGHAM.

The Committee of the Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, are to be heartily congratulated on the fine well-arranged workshops they now possess. Not only are the new buildings excellently planned, but the old ones have been exceedingly well adapted, so as to give a great deal more space. A large town and county meeting was held at the Institution, on November 2nd, when the Duke of Portland presided. The other speakers were the Earl of Manvers, the Mayor of Nottingham, and Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust. The meeting was held for the purpose of making an appeal for funds to defray the cost of the erection of the new workshops, and the alteration of the original buildings at a cost of more than £12,000.

The Institution was founded in 1843, and established in the present building in 1853. It is situated at the corner of Chaucer Street and Clarendon Street, and is one of the oldest charitable institutions in Nottingham. It was founded for the Counties of Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, and Rutland, and up to five years ago was a residential Institution for the young Blind of both sexes for their education and training, and for the training in trades and employment of adults. For many years there has been a great need of extension, the site being very small and the Institution itself being extremely cramped. About seventeen years ago this difficulty was partially met by erecting a wing for workshops on the Chaucer Street side, but considerations of both money and space prevented the whole needs of the Institution being properly and adequately dealt with, and what was done then encroached upon the boys' playground. The difficulties under which the Institution laboured were so great that a scheme was set on foot for erecting a new complete Institution elsewhere, involving an outlay of £30,000 or £40,000. From want of sufficient promise of support, however, this scheme was abandoned, and the only alternative seemed to be to give up some portion of the work and make such improvements and

additions as were possible to the existing Institution. It was, therefore, determined to discontinue the education of the young Blind, and to cease to carry on a residential Institution, and gradually a scheme was evolved for establishing a Technical School for Higher Training, and Workshops for the employment of adults. This scheme of alterations, improvements and additions has been carried out, and a great deal of the old Institution which was unsuitable and imperfect has been cleared away, including the old narrow and dark passages and staircases. The lighting and heating and the sanitary arrangements and draining have been entirely renewed.

The present front entrance opens into a good sized hall, from which a spacious corridor runs in two directions. On the Clarendon Street side open off the girls' spacious workrooms in which are taught hand and machine knitting, Swedish hand loom weaving, chair reseating and basket work, and at the end is the new concert hall, size 40 ft. x 24 ft. x 14 ft. Under the concert hall are a women's dining room, which is also to be used for the girls for various purposes, and for the cookery classes, and a men's dining room. On the floor above, the old dormitories and bedrooms are now used as class rooms, dressing room, shower bath and massage room, choir room, library, tuning rooms, piano workshop, manual shop and writing room, and at the end of the corridor is a new gymnasium over the concert hall and of the same dimensions, with an open roof 20 ft. 6 ins. up to the apex. On the Chaucer Street side of the corridor are the administrative department and offices and the typewriting department, and at the end of this corridor the wing of workshops before mentioned, and the new workshops which have just been erected, are approached. These consist in the basement of willow stores, 66 ft. x 29 ft. and 36 ft. x 19 ft., and also a boiler house which by means of low pressure steam water pipes and radiators heats the whole premises, old and new. The ground floor comprises the stable, coach house, &c., with rooms 66 ft. x 30 ft. and 82 ft. x 30 ft. and 12 ft. high, which are devoted to the new basket department in all its various branches, and packing and loading room. These rooms are repeated on

the floor above, and will form on one side a new warehouse and stores, and on the other the new brush department in its various branches, of stores, hair room, pan shop, drawing shop and room for women. There will still be space left for other trades and occupations which it is hoped to introduce. The present basket shop will be occupied as a basket work stores, the present brush department as the mat department, and the present mat department for storage purposes.

A unique feature of the new range of workshops is its flat promenade roof 82 ft. x 30 ft. and 66 ft. x 30 ft., where it is hoped to make a roof garden by means of shrubs, plants and flowers, and garden seats for recreation in the summer time. The whole of the buildings are now installed with electric light in place of the obsolete and worn out gas fittings, and internal telephones have been established. The new building is fire-proof by means of patent "Fram" flooring. When the whole scheme is finished and in working order it will be a thoroughly useful and up-to-date Technical Training Institution with workshops for the employment of the Blind. It is proposed to open the buildings some time in the spring or early summer, and a scheme is on foot to invite the Prince and Princess of Wales for that purpose.

We need not refer to the present and future operations of the Institution for giving technical and industrial training to the Blind above 16 years of age, because they are clearly set forth in the July number of last year, page 406, by the energetic Secretary, Mr. Pine, on whom has fallen the heavy secretarial work in connection with the extensive alterations and additions, and whom we now sincerely congratulate on having an Institution after his own heart in which to carry on and develop industrial training and employment for the Blind.

GENERAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, BIRMINGHAM.

WORKMEN'S AUGMENTATION FUND.

It is a well-known fact that blind workers cannot earn wages which can be at all compared with those of sighted workers in similar trades, and it must, therefore, be apparent to all that if blind workers are to live with any degree of comfort their wages must be augmented, and this can only be done from charitable sources.

Although, as the accounts of the Birmingham Institution show, a sum of about £550 was paid last year to blind employees in excess of the commercial value of the work done—that is to say in augmentation—the earnings of the Blind were still inadequate, and on January 1st, 1906, the Committee started a blind Collector, whose work should consist in visiting the large factories in Birmingham and district, for the purpose of inducing the employees to assist the blind workers engaged at the Institution. This collector, Mr. H. W. Haydon, has met with such extraordinary success, that the Committee have been able during the year to twice increase the amount paid to the Blind by way of augmentation. Mr. Haydon's course of procedure is first to obtain the consent of the principals of a firm to approach their men, and to place placards in different parts of the factories. He then enlists the sympathy of some prominent employee or manager, who keeps up the interest of the workpeople in the scheme. Mass Meetings are held, attended in many instances by hundreds of employees, and Mr. Haydon then explains the object of the Blind Workers' Augmentation Fund, with the almost invariable result that either periodical grants are promised or collecting boxes are placed in the Works. Of these boxes 440 are now in use, the amount realized from 235 of them which were recently opened being £87 14s. 9d., or an average of 7/5 per box for half-a-year, the boxes being collected twice a year.

The following is a copy of one of the placards posted in the works. (It will be noticed that the interest of the employees of the Birmingham Factories is increased by their being invited to monthly Gymnastic displays and Concerts at the Institution, when the workshops are open for inspection).

THE GENERAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND,
EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM.

The Committee of the above Institution earnestly ask working-men to assist them in their endeavours to help the Blind.

Over eighty-five Blind Men and Women are employed in the basket, mat, brush, typewriting and knitting departments, but at the trade rate of pay, the Blind earn considerably less than the Seeing, and it is necessary in many instances to augment their wages. The Committee, therefore, earnestly ask you to give something towards helping the Blind Workers in their plucky efforts at self-support.

Every penny contributed will go direct to the Blind.

The Blind Institution not being a medical charity receives no benefit from the Hospital Saturday Fund, hence the Committee's direct appeal to you.

Delegates are cordially invited to visit the Institution and judge for themselves the reality of the work. The shops are open for inspection any day except Saturday, between the hours of 10 and 7, and special arrangements will be made for showing delegates over the Schools and Workshops on the first Monday in each month from 2-30 to 8-30, when there will be a gymnastic display at 6-45, and a Concert at 7-45; January, August and September excepted.

The Committee will be pleased to send their representative, Mr. H. W. Haydon, to meet delegates or address a meeting of men, by arrangement.

ARTHUR L. LOWE,
Chairman of General Committee.

ALFRED WILSON,
Chairman of Trade Committee,

HENRY STAINSBY,
General Superintendent and Secretary.

Particulars are given below of the new scale of augmentation, the amount of minimum wage, and the rules which govern the distribution of the Fund.

The following sliding scale has been adopted by the Committee, and will be in force until further notice:—

Earnings.	Proportion of Augmentation.	Augmented amount must not exceed.
Under 10/-	.. 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %	.. 12/6
10/- to 12/5	.. 25%	.. 15/-
12/6 to 14/11	.. 20%	.. 17/3
15/- to 17/5	.. 15%	.. 19/3
17/6 to 19/11	.. 10%	.. 21/-
20/- and over	.. 5%	

The following rules will be in force:—

1. A minimum wage in certain cases will be allowed, where inability or sickness prevents a person earning a living wage, viz.:—Married men, 12/6 ; single men, 10/- ; women, 7/6.
2. Every worker shall (except in case of sickness or other disability), work not less than 50 hours per week in order to participate in the sliding scale. For a less number of hours, not more than 10% shall be allowed.
3. In case of idleness or unsatisfactory conduct of any kind, the augmentation may be withheld.

These Rules may be modified by the Committee from time to time.

HENRY STAINSBY,

General Superintendent and Secretary.

14th November, 1906.

A VISIT TO SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL CONTINENTAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE BLIND.

September–October, 1906.

This visit, of which a short account is here given, was the outcome of a suggestion from that devoted friend of the Blind, Mr. William Harris, and occupied a period of three weeks, during which comparatively short space of time we attempted to make careful observation of the various phases of work for the welfare of the Blind carried on in connection with the Institutions at Hamburg, Kiel, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Berlin, Steglitz, Vienna, Chemnitz and Hanover.

Our itinerary was decided by a wish to see in actual operation some of the great work for the Blind which is being carried on in Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Austria ; and to have for our future work at home the inspiration resulting from personal contact with some of the eminent men who have long led the way in the work for the Blind on the Continent. In the case of Sweden, we had an additional inducement in the desire to renew in person friendships formed with the representatives from Sweden at the International Conference at Edinburgh last year, and to accept their very cordial invitation to see the work for the Blind in that country.

It will thus be seen that the task we undertook was not only arduous but also exacting, in that it demanded the closest care and attention ; and in describing a tour of this magnitude, embracing as it did nine Institutions with their various branch establishments—each involving a great mass of detail—we cannot hope in a short article to do more than give a brief outline of the result of our observations. We will endeavour to do this under the following heads :—

THE SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION.

The Primary Education carried on in the Institutions we visited is of a very high order, and the methods adopted are most thorough and complete. Great attention has evidently been given to even the most minute detail, and we were constantly impressed with the systematic character of the teaching, and the earnest and careful study devoted to the discovery of the best means of helping the young mind to advance step by step in its difficult path. In short, we found in the Schools a complete and scientific system of education coupled with thoroughness in carrying it into effect.

The Braille system is in general use, and we saw many ingenious appliances for teaching it in its early stages. At the same time, much attention is also paid to the Roman system of capitals, the use of which is taught by pencil-frame and pin-type. The Guldberg frame for lead pencil writing in Roman script is largely used in Denmark ; and at Stockholm lead pencil

writing is also taught by an equally ingenious though somewhat different apparatus.

The Taylor frame is in common use for teaching arithmetic. In addition to this, the Braille system of numerals is also used for the purposes of arithmetic, and the calculations are thus worked on paper, which is sometimes an obvious advantage. We found many simple but useful appliances for teaching the young mind to count, perhaps the most interesting being a wooden frame consisting of a series of models of the human hand with jointed fingers.

Nature study also is an important feature of the educational system, and all the Institutions are abundantly provided with finely constructed models for teaching this subject. Many of these models are so constructed that they can be taken to pieces and examined in detail. A collection of plants and flowers is sent twice or thrice a week from the State Botanical Gardens of Hamburg to the school in that city for use by the pupils in their lessons. The influence of this nature study was very noticeable in the extremely clever representations of plants and flowers which were made in the clay-modelling classes.

Clay-modelling is very largely employed for training the touch and teaching form, and in some Institutions it is carried to very advanced stages, and made the medium for imparting much general information.

In the teaching of Geography and History maps are very much used, and all the Institutions are amply equipped in this particular, many of the large maps being of a highly elaborate and costly character. We also noticed embossed plans of the Institutions, buildings and grounds, with separate plans of the different classrooms, enabling the children to make themselves familiar with the structural arrangements and surroundings of their schools.

In the higher branches of education we found instruction being given in Geometry, with special instruments for drawing the geometrical figures; elementary Astronomy with many elaborate models illustrating the motions and relative sizes of the heavenly bodies; the construction and use of the Electric

Telegraph, Telephone and Bell; and some of the principles of elementary Chemistry.

Typewriting we did not find much taught in the schools, nor indeed much practised by the Blind we met abroad.

Perhaps the most prominent feature, as it appeared to us, of the educational system for the Blind on the Continent is the wonderful provision for teaching by means of objects and models, the quantity and variety of which were indeed surprising. We observed specimens of a wide variety of animal and bird life; other objects in almost infinite variety, including a complete large model of a German modern battleship, submarine boat, torpedo, windmill, mole's subterranean home, models of mechanical appliances, tools and implements, armour and weapons, a set of models to illustrate the different stages of processes in various manufactures, a cabinet of materials for testing and cultivating the senses, and large panoramic models illustrating all the physical features of a country grouped in combination together with such artificial features as railway, canal, tunnel, mine, quarry and such like. In fact it is difficult to imagine any object likely to be named in the school instruction which could not be illustrated by means of a specimen or model from the school museum. The cost of these objects and models must have been very great, and the space required for them is considerable; and if frequent use is made of them, as would seem to be indicated, the blind children for whom this wonderful provision is made are fortunate in their great opportunities for acquiring general information.

Much attention is given to teaching the blind children the history of their own country, and to fostering the spirit of patriotism, and in most of the Institutions, especially at Hamburg, Steglitz, Chemnitz, Hanover and Vienna, busts and paintings of the Emperors and Kings are in constant evidence.

The subject of preparatory education is considered to be of great importance, and many of the Institutions make provision for preparatory training either in a separate building or as a separate department of the school itself. We would call especial

attention to the sea-side Preparatory School at Kallundberg for the health and training of the young Blind of the Copenhagen Institution, the well-equipped Preparatory School at Steglitz, the great work which is being so happily carried on for the young children at Stockholm and Vienna, and the wonderful provision for this object at the recently erected Institution at Chemnitz.

With regard to the defective Blind, we found separate provision made for them at some of the schools. Chemnitz has no less than three classes for blind defectives, whilst there are special classes for this purpose at Copenhagen and Steglitz. Every effort is made to develop the powers of these children and raise them from their defective status; and with this object in view the course at Steglitz is so comprehensive as to include Divinity, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, Drawing, Modelling, Knowledge of Objects, Woodwork, Music and Physical Training. There is in Sweden a little school at Venersborg for Blind Deaf-Mutes. It is the only one of its kind in the world, and was opened in 1886. The present number of pupils is 14, of which number, however, only 6 are blind deaf-mutes, the remainder being blind with a complication of other physical or mental defects.

In the matter of physical training of the blind, we were much impressed by the important place assigned to this branch of education. No Institution is without its large and well-equipped Gymnasium. Whilst, as we have before stated, mental training is careful and thorough, this is accompanied by an equally efficient course of physical training. We noticed many forms of apparatus and exercises—some of them quite new to us; and we would especially call attention to the exercises practised by the younger children at Stockholm. These exercises included games and country dances in which the children of both sexes joined, with occasional singing accompanied by the strains of an accordion played by one of the boys, and evidently formed a delightful recreation as well as a beneficial physical training.

The finest gymnasium we saw was the one at the Institution at Chemnitz. This gymnasium is a handsome and spacious

building with a stage at one end and a side gallery for spectators, is most completely fitted up with the latest and best apparatus suitable for use by the Blind, and is lighted by four arc lamps and other electric lights. It is, however, used also by the sighted defectives who, as will be seen later in this paper, form part of the Colony at Chemnitz.

As to recreations, out-door games do not seem to be so extensively indulged in as with us, and, although we inquired carefully, we were unable to find any new out-door game to recommend for adoption in our schools. Indoor games are freely provided, and are much the same, as those in use in this country.

The Blind of Sweden find a delightful Winter recreation in skating, for which the climate and physical features of their country afford them every opportunity.

MANUAL WORK AND TECHNICAL TRAINING.

The systems of manual work and technical training, as they appeared to us, are largely on the lines of our own Institutions. It is the general custom for all the boys to receive some training in woodwork, and at Chemnitz this is carried so far that it is actually included in the school course for both boys and girls. At Stockholm all the boys learn woodwork, which, however, is subsequently followed up only by the elder boys of partial sight, some of whom we were told are afterwards enabled to earn their own livelihood as assistants to country joiners.

Basket-making, as will be expected, forms a general subject for Technical Training, and we found really excellent work being done in this department. Very good white wicker chairs were being made in several places by blind youths. We may remark here, by the way, that basket-makers abroad, both learners and adults, use seats of the height of an ordinary chair and not the low seats commonly seen with us. At Steglitz basket-making is an important part of the training for girls, and we saw some first-rate market baskets, waste-paper baskets, fancy open and work baskets which the girls had made as the result of their instruction in this handicraft. These girls were also being

taught to make straw partitions for egg boxes, as well as mats of plaited rope made of inside pulp cane, and bands of the same material for tying trees. In Germany it seems to be the custom to defer instruction in basket-making till the age of 14.

Brush-making is universally taught to the pupils of both sexes, and constitutes a prominent part of the technical instruction given to blind girls, providing the large number of blind women we afterwards describe as being employed in that trade. A noticeable feature of this work at Kiel was the instruction of the Blind in the boring and other preparation of boards for brush-making, to which matter we shall further refer under the head of "Employment." In several instances we were interested to notice the Blind of both sexes being taught to dress bristles and mix hair.

Mat-making did not seem to be much taught, and, so far as we saw, appeared to be confined to frames.

Chair re-seating is taught everywhere; but whereas with us it is taught as an occupation principally for females, abroad it is widely taught as a separate branch of employment for males, owing doubtless to the very large amount of work of this kind occasioned by the conditions of life on the Continent.

Hand knitting, and also knitting with machines, both round and flat, is widely taught to the females, and we saw no less than eight flat knitting machines being used by girls under training at Vienna.

An interesting addition to the Girls' work at Stockholm is Swedish hand-loom weaving, in which suitably selected blind girls can become quite proficient. We made careful enquiry into the details of this occupation and found that the girls when fully trained are able of themselves to do most of the work of threading and setting-up the looms. It is the practice for the Tomtebodas Institution to give looms to these girls at the completion of their training and so render them able to follow their occupation at their own homes, where, owing to the general familiarity of the Swedish people with these machines, the blind girls can readily obtain all the assistance they need in their work.

At Copenhagen a prominent feature in the Manual Instruction course for boys was shoe-making and mending, and we were informed that many of these pupils at their Confirmation, at the age of 14, wear shoes actually made by themselves.

At Vienna elaborate carpets and rugs of an expensive character are made of Smyrna wool.

Amongst the other occupations taught to women we found, but not to any large extent, the manufacture of cloth rugs and mats, practised chiefly at Copenhagen and Stockholm.

It appeared to be the general practice for pupils under Technical Training to continue their mental education by attending school classes at certain times of the day or evening.

MUSIC.

We have nothing of a special character to report on this subject. Music is taught as a recreation at all the Institutions, but we received the distinct impression of a strong general opinion that it was and should be taught as a profession only for those possessing very special natural aptitude and powers. At the same time, pianoforte tuning is taught as the means of providing a livelihood for blind men, and instruction in piano playing is included in this training. There is considerable scope for blind organists in Denmark, twenty of whom now hold appointments in that country; but we were sorry to hear that the increasing competition of the sighted is gradually lessening their number in Copenhagen itself. So far as we could learn, music is taught to the girls, when taught at all, simply as a recreation. Vocal music, chiefly choral, is a distinct feature of the musical training abroad, and we found large and good choirs everywhere. Hamburg has its small brass band, and Kiel a small orchestra. At Vienna we were not surprised to find a large and efficient orchestra, which included both male and female performers; and both Chemnitz and Hanover possess orchestras of considerable numbers. All these opportunities for musical recreation are found to be of great benefit to the blind workers, and seem to be much enjoyed by them. In some parts of the Continent we visited the laws do not allow vagrant musicians to get a living in the streets, and therefore the Blind can be taught the various

wind and string instruments without any danger in this respect. We were told at Copenhagen that the Blind of Denmark, as a result of their general education, have too much self-respect to play in the streets.

At Stockholm, however, wind and string instruments are not taught to the Blind, lest they should be subsequently used for street playing purposes.

EMPLOYMENT.

The question of employment for the Blind abroad presents many of the same difficulties with which we are so familiar at home, and we were glad to observe the increasing attention which is being devoted abroad to this all-important question.

The principal employments followed by the workers in the Institutions we visited were obviously those that have been described in the foregoing account of Technical Training. One of the features of the employment noticed right through our tour was the amount of brush-making done by the women, and chair-caning done by the men. Basket-making and brush-making were undoubtedly the two trades in which the workers were most largely employed, the former being done almost exclusively by men, whilst the departments of brush-making—which in this country are almost exclusively confined to men—were largely shared by women. This was particularly noticeable at Berlin where many women were employed in setting, with pitch, brooms both of hair and bass. At the Institution in this City we saw 36 blind persons engaged at “pan work,” 20 of whom were females; and we were informed that in this work the women proved themselves more adept than the men, one girl being able to set 1,200 knots a day. At the Kiel Institution there is a branch of Women’s work which we venture to think is quite unique. This Institution bores and prepares all its own brush-stocks, and much of this work is actually done by the Blind. We saw some of the boring of the stocks being done, and were told that one of the blind women could bore 5,000 holes a day, whilst one of the blind men could bore as many as

8,000 a day. But what caused us no little astonishment was to see a blind woman using a circular saw for shaping the stocks!

Brush-making is a large industry for the Blind of Berlin, and the workshops in that City supply to the Municipality no less than 60,000 brooms annually for street use alone, thus finding much constant and profitable employment for many male and female workers. No boring of the brushwood is done by the Institution, not only the brush boards, but the whole of the broom stocks being purchased ready bored.

We may here notice one point in brush-making which we found in general practice on the Continent. In "drawing," both with wire and string, and also in "setting" with pitch, the method is the very opposite of that in practice in England. In the Continental method of "drawing," the wire is fixed instead of the brush, and the material is forced into the stock by drawing the brush away from the wire. In the Continental method of "setting," a ball of string or thrum is used instead of lengths ready cut beforehand, the thrum is fixed to an upright spindle or peg fastened to the bench, and thus held tight while being wound round the knot, and when the knot is made the string is cut off from the ball. Both these methods seemed very rapid, and the work appeared to proceed more quickly than by our own methods; but whether the system could be adopted with advantage for the Blind in England is a question for consideration and practical demonstration. It may be added that these methods appear to be invariably adopted, not only in Blind Institutions, but also in sighted manufactories on the Continent. At Hamburg we learned that the Police Regulations require all bristles to be boiled before use for the purpose of disinfection.

In our remarks upon employment we have said very little about the great industry of basket-making, but this is simply because—except in the large amount of work made on the Continent in white willow—the conditions of the trade are very much on the lines with which we are familiar at home.

"Cane-seating" is also an extensive occupation abroad, and at Berlin we learned that the number of chairs re-seated at the City Institution was no less than 12,000 per annum, the number

actually re-seated in the month prior to our visit being 1,500. Blind men of all ages find much employment in this work.

Rope-making is an important branch of employment, and we found extensive departments for this work at Kiel, Copenhagen and Steglitz. The support given to the Institutions in this industry by the various Naval and Military Authorities does much to ensure its success.

Shoemaking and mending by the Blind, with special tools invented for their use, seems to be confined chiefly to Copenhagen, and is mainly followed by the workers in their own homes.

Pianoforte tuning finds some employment, though we fear not to any large extent, and we were glad to hear of blind tuners being in several instances engaged in Piano Factories.

Stockholm was the only City in which we found massage being practised by the Blind, and we were informed that there are 4 males and 2 females in that City, all making a good living by the exercise of that profession, one of them, with a high-class connection, realising as much as £400 per annum.

Type-writing as a means of employment was only found at Berlin, where four typists are employed in City offices at earnings ranging from 15/- to £1 per week, and one in a Fire Insurance Office earning 25/- a week.

Printing and stereotyping of Braille books is carried on at many of the Institutions. At Berlin large numbers of school books, magazines and writing frames, etc., are produced, the semi-blind being employed in the work.

We cannot leave this subject of employment without alluding to the great help and encouragement which is given to the industries of the Continental Institutions for the Blind from the patronage and favour which they receive from the Imperial and Royal Families, and from the spending departments of the State and Municipality, including the Army, Navy, Post Office Hospitals, Asylums and many other Public Institutions.

HOMES AND AFTER-CARE.

To no phase of work for the Blind abroad has more attention been given than to the great and important subject of

after-care. Homes are in many cases provided for the aged and defective Blind, and for many of the workers—especially females—engaged in the workshops attached to the various Institutions; whilst special provision seems to have been made of Industrial Homes for blind women. Many of these Homes are built and furnished in a manner that we did not at all expect to see, and we cannot but regret that space does not permit us to give the details as we should like. We would, however, call attention to the existence of the Home for the aged Blind at Eppendorf, Hamburg, built on State land given for the purpose, at a cost of £11,500 from gifts of £25,000 from Herr Wilhelm Mueller, and £3,000 from Herr Kaemmerer, the residue going to form the Home's endowment; the Homes at Kiel, Steglitz, Vienna and Hanover; the Industrial Home for blind Women at Mariendalsvig, Copenhagen, with its happy home life; and the wonderful provision of Home accommodation at Chemnitz.

These Homes for the Blind are in truth real homes, and we wish that we could convey to our readers the happy sense of actual home-life which we were delighted to find. The inmates of the Homes for blind women are encouraged to help in furnishing their own rooms in which they take great pride, and which they keep with a cleanliness and taste that their sighted sisters could not surpass. Sometimes two friends will have their rooms en suite with common sitting-room and common bed-room, and altogether they are allowed to have a feeling of freedom and the liberty of home which must tend to make their lives natural and happy. Much after-care help is given to blind people living and working at their own homes:—first in the form of a complete outfit and equipment for work on leaving school, and subsequently in the supply of materials at cost price and carriage free, the purchase and immediate payment for articles made by the Blind at home which the Institution or Organisation must then sell, as well as grants of material and money in times of need, and help in case of sickness. At Chemnitz last year the Institution took back for sale goods made by old pupils working at their own homes to the value of £2,800.

No account of the after-care system abroad is complete without special mention of the Saxony system as administered by the Institution at Chemnitz. Here pupils are received from the age of six, and retained in school until 14 or 15. They then pass into the workshops where they remain till the age of 20. After this, they go to their own homes to work, and ever after remain in regular and constant touch with the Institution from which, for the most part, they receive annual grants in material or money of value from £5 to £10. These grants are administered by a local representative of the Institution, who makes regular reports to the Director. The endowments at the Institution's disposal for these purposes amount to nearly £90,000, and last year there was dispensed in this way amongst 460 recipients the sum of £3,000, no less than £2,000 of which was given in materials for work. The women are found to need more help than the men, and therefore, as a rule, they receive larger grants from the after-care funds. The Director of the Institution holds from the Government a free pass over the Railways of the Kingdom of Saxony to enable him to visit the old pupils.

LIBRARIES.

We visited the following Libraries, a few particulars of which our readers may be glad to have:—

The Central Library of Germany at Eppendorf, Hamburg, opened in 1905, cost £3,500, contains 5,000 volumes, a large number of which have been written by ladies.

Stockholm, containing 3,000 volumes.

Steglitz, with 4,000 printed volumes, and 4,000 volumes written by some 450 ladies.

Chemnitz. Large Library, including 3,000 volumes written by friends of the Blind.

From the above-named Libraries books are sent free to all parts of their respective countries, but the borrowers must pay return postage.

Vienna possesses a very fine Library, including 4,000 volumes written, as we were told, by members of the nobility, officers, ladies, and gentlemen in all parts of Austria.

FOUNDATION.

We obtained much interesting information as to the foundation and administration of the various institutions we visited, but even a very short account of each would require more space than we have at our disposal in this article. It will be of interest to note that the foundation of Institutions for the Blind on the Continent dates from the early part of last century, and, therefore, coincides with the similar movement in our country. We must also call attention to the important fact that each one of the nine Institutions we visited received in its establishment or erection direct State or Municipal aid, and in some cases the State now makes direct contributions to the Institutions to meet what is required for their annual outlay. The results of this help from the State cannot be described as other than good, and are to be seen in the handsome and spacious schools built, equipped and staffed in a manner quite beyond the powers of ordinary voluntary effort; and also in the liberation of the charitable funds of the Institutions for the better carrying out of a small part of that boundless work which must always be left to personal sympathy and private benevolence.

GENERAL.

We now propose to give a few items of information which, although they do not readily fall under any one of the foregoing heads, may yet be of interest to our readers.

The Blind in Germany are not allowed to beg in public, and those who are unable to support themselves receive help from the Municipal or other Authorities. Moral defectives amongst the Blind are not kept in the Institutions, but are sent to the State Almshouses. The children of the Hamburg Institution, belonging as they do to the City of Hamburg and its vicinity, are allowed home each week-end, and no bad result follows from this custom. It is proposed to remove the school very shortly from *Minenstrasse*, Hamburg, to the suburb of *Eppendorf*, as being likely to conduce to the better health of the children. It is also proposed to extend the Homes for the adult Blind at *Eppendorf* by the erection of a number of separate houses for the

accommodation of men who have lost their sight in adult life, with their wives and families.

The Copenhagen Institution has a Sanatorium or Convalescent Home at the seaside at Kallundberg, to build up the health of its weakly and ailing pupils.

At the Institution at Tomtebodå, Stockholm, a special course of training is arranged for those desirous of becoming teachers of the Blind, and such students receive stipends from the State Treasury; and there is also in Stockholm a weekly Magazine of 16 pages, edited by Herr Alrik Lundberg (blind) and Herr D. Kjellen, which is supplied free to every blind person in Sweden wishing it, at the expense of the State and County Councils.

At Steglitz a large Museum has just been added to the Institution by money granted by the State. This Museum was opened in October last to celebrate the centenary of the Institution, and contains a wonderful and comprehensive collection of models and specimens as well as appliances and apparatus used in the education and training of the Blind. It will also be the home of the large library attached to the Steglitz Institution.

The Institution at Vienna enjoys the active personal favour of the members of the Austrian Imperial Family, and justifies its title of "The Royal and Imperial Institution for the Blind." This Institution also possesses a very large Museum with a remarkable collection of all kinds of apparatus and appliances used in the education and training of the Blind. It has, in addition, a Picture Gallery containing portraits and pictures of blind people of all times and nationalities, together with reports and records of the Institutions for the Blind of all countries. Free tram rides are allowed in Vienna to the Blind and their guides.

We cannot bring this short account of our tour to a close without some special notice of the remarkable Institution at Altendorf, Chemnitz. The Institution for the Blind of Saxony was formerly situated at Dresden, but the Kingdom of Saxony has recently made provision on one large site for the

accommodation of 220 blind children and adults, and also 480 sighted feeble-minded. This joint Institution occupies an elevated and beautiful stretch of land, and consists of quite a colony of separate buildings systematically arranged so as to centre round the series of magnificent schools. The provision for the Blind alone includes schools with separate boarding-houses for the infants, junior pupils, and senior pupils, as well as Homes and very spacious Workshops for the adults, the accommodation for the males being on one side of the school and that for females on the other, whilst each Boarding-house and Home is surrounded by ample grounds for recreation and other purposes. The Chapel, Gymnasium, and Baths are used by both classes of inmates, but at different times. The Dining House contains separate Halls for the Blind and Feeble-minded on the first-floor at either end, in which all the meals of the day are served from one common kitchen below, equipped in a truly marvellous way. The whole colony of buildings is lighted by electricity and heated by steam, the light and heat both being supplied from one large building for this purpose. There are also offices and administration buildings, residences for Chaplain, Superintendents, Medical Officers, Teachers, and other members of the staff.

The cost of the erection and equipment of the various buildings of this Institution, apart from the value of the land on which it stands, amounted to £225,000, and was met by payment from the State Treasury, which also provides for the expenses connected with its annual maintenance.

The Institution at Chemnitz is distinctly remarkable by reason of its magnitude, but we think it is even more remarkable in the completeness of its carefully designed provision for the special needs of those for whom it is intended.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, we cannot help stating that we were much impressed by the fact that there is undoubtedly a very great work being accomplished for the uplifting of the Blind and the improvement of their general condition in the centres we were

privileged to visit, and we are of opinion that this work is in many respects advanced by the direct connection of the Institutions with the State or Municipality. This recognition by the State of the position of the Blind which we found on the Continent seems to have stimulated rather than checked private effort on their behalf, for there are abundant signs on all hands of the active exercise of private benevolence in many forms of "after" and other care which will always be best given, and at the same time be most valued by the Blind themselves, when they come to them as an assurance of the personal sympathy of their sighted neighbours. We were glad to see how, in every place we visited, private benevolence and personal sympathy are supplementing and completing the work of the State, and it was everywhere acknowledged that however much the State may do in providing education and training to bring the Blind up to the level of their sighted neighbours, the still greater work of general care and of bettering their social condition must always be left to Voluntary Effort.

We wish to take this further opportunity of expressing our deep obligation for all the help, kindness and hospitality we enjoyed at the hands of Directors and members of the various Institutions, as well as of many other friends whom we met and made during our most interesting and enjoyable tour.

In this short paper dealing with a visit in which there was so much to see we have perforce been obliged to omit very many interesting details; in truth, in glancing again through our notes we seem to have omitted almost everything; but we would recommend those who are engaged in similar work to acquaint themselves, if the opportunity offers, by personal observation with the work of and for the Blind in other countries, and we venture to think that they will find, as we have done, very much that is both valuable and instructive.

A. B. NORWOOD,
H. W. P. PINE.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 38.

APRIL, 20TH, 1907.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 22nd, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

In the present number we give a translation of a paper read at the Stockholm Congress by Mr. Moldenhawer, who was the well-known Superintendent of the Royal Institution for the Blind at Copenhagen for a great many years, in order that our readers may see his views on the training and education of the Blind.

In our next number (July) we have arranged for an article on the Industrial and Educational Institutions for the Blind in Scotland, to be followed in the October number by an article on the Societies and Missions for the Blind in Scotland, by Mr. J. Frew Bryden. The two articles, being written by two experts in the several branches of the work, will give a complete history of what is being done for the Blind at the present time in Scotland.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of Mrs. Dow, on March 16th, at her residence, Wonham Manor, Betchworth. She was the founder, together with the late Miss Martha Arnold, of the National Lending Library for the

Blind in 1882, and it was then that we first became acquainted with her as Miss C. C. Howden, as she then was. It was she who approached Gardner's Trust in that year and obtained a grant of £25, with which the Library was practically started. She always took the greatest interest in, and devoted much of her energy, time, and money on behalf of, the Library, which now has on its shelves over 8,500 volumes in Braille and Moon, and is the greatest possible boon to hundreds of blind readers. She also started the Arnold Carriage Fund and the Dow Blind Writers' Fund to give employment to blind persons in copying Braille books.

2. We have to record with regret the death of Dr. James Gale, at the age of 73. We often used to meet him, and on one occasion he gave us a booklet, called "Biographical Sketch—James Gale, the Blind Inventor." As a frontispiece there is an excellent photograph of him, and the letterpress gives a brief account of his remarkable life. Since his death, extracts from this booklet have appeared in many newspapers, with especial reference to the gift of £50,000 to him from a grateful patient, and to his discovery of making gunpowder temporarily non-explosive, the value of which he personally demonstrated before the Queen and Royal Family in 1865.

3. We regret to have to report the death of Dr. E. Javal, the author of "The Blind Man's World," a book that created much interest at the time of its publication in English. It is a translation of his "Entre les Aveugles."

4. The interesting and instructive article in our last number by Mr. Norwood and Mr. Pine on their Continental tour has been much appreciated. Permission has been asked, and readily granted, that it should be reprinted in America, and also that it should be translated into German, and published in the "Blindenfreund," a German magazine for the Blind.

5. The Rev. W. H. Robins, D.D., a quondam student at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, has been made a Canon of Rochester Cathedral.

6. Captain Peirson Webber, Highfield House, Stockton, near Rugby, the energetic poultry keeper, is totally blind, and has recently delivered several lectures on "Nature's Truth as applied to Poultry Management." He has invented not only a shutter which protects fowls from foxes and draughts, but also a contrivance which supplies a constant supply of fresh water. At the end of this month he is going for a course of instruction in poultry keeping, of ten weeks' duration, at the University College, Reading, and College Poultry Farm, Theale, Berks. An examination will be held at the end of the course, and certificates in Aviculture awarded to those who pass. We wish him all success in his examination.

7. Mr. A. M. Peden, to whom we referred in No. 35, page 380, has secured First-class Honours in Moral Philosophy, at Edinburgh, being placed tenth out of 120 candidates.

8. We are pleased to be able to report that Mr. Glynn Vivian, himself blind, has decided to erect a home, to be called "The Glynn Vivian Home of Rest for the Blind," at Caswell Bay, near Swansea, South Wales. The Home will have accommodation for seven male and seven female occupants. Mr. Vivian has given the site for the Home, is going to pay the cost of constructing it and furnishing it, and to endow it with £1,000. The site covers about $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

9. A Gardner Scholarship, tenable at one of the Universities, will be vacant in October next. Intending candidates must make application before the 30th of June next, on forms to be obtained from the Secretary of Gardner's Trust, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

10. A new edition of the English Braille Bible is about to be published by the British and Foreign Bible Society, 146, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., on the following lines:—

Grade 2 will be used, except that the double letters of line 5 will be omitted.

The following additional abbreviations will be used:—
 hst—hast, h/h—hath, Isr—Israel, lt—let, mn—man, sn—son.

The words for Christ, Jesus, Lord, God, and Spirit will be written in full.

The indexes or summaries will be omitted.

The necessary Table of Contractions and Abbreviations will be bound up with each volume.

11. Can any kind reader supply the editor with a copy of No. 36 (October, 1906) of "The Blind," and a copy of the report of Gardner's Trust for 1895? They are both out of print, and are required to complete sets at the Perkins Institution for the Blind, U.S.A.

12. The new edition (fourth) of the pamphlet entitled "Information with regard to Institutions, Societies, and Classes for the Blind in England and Wales," was published last month. It includes for the first time, in an appendix, a list of Institutions and Societies for the Blind in Scotland and Ireland. On looking back at the old editions, we find that in the first one, in 1887, there were 40 pages, in the second, in 1896, 45 pages, in the third, in 1903, 55 pages, and in the present one (1907) 63 pages. The pamphlet is still to be obtained at the original price, viz., 4d., post free, at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The demand for copies of the new edition has been quite unprecedented, several hundreds having already been sold. It is hoped that this implies that the booklet is of use not only as a work of reference, but also as a guide to those who are anxious to assist the Blind and are unaware of the numerous organisations for their benefit. The preface is written with the object of giving information and advice to clergymen and philanthropic people who are interested in individual blind persons, and do not know what form of assistance is the best to be given nor how to obtain it. In fact, the preface essays to embody a reply, as far as possible, to the chief of the many questions which from time to time have been addressed to the secretary of Gardner's Trust.

13. At the second International Congress on School

Hygiene, to be held in the University of London, August 5th to 10th, a paper dealing with the subject, "The present necessity for attention to the general and special hygiene of the Blind," will be read by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., and a paper on "The feeble-minded Blind," by Mr. H. J. Wilson. Papers will also be read on "The definition of blindness in children. Its causes and prevention from a medical point of view," by Mr. Adolph Bronner, M.D., and on "The mental characteristics associated with blindness of varying causation, and their relation to training," by Mr. N. Bishop Harman, F.R.C.S. There will be an exhibition of work from the Schools for the Blind. Mr. B. P. Jones is one of the Hon. Secretaries of Section IX., "Special Schools for blind, deaf and dumb children," and will be glad to give any information at the Hon. Secretaries' Offices, 11, Fitzroy Square, London, W.

14. It has been decided by the Committee of the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind that all subscribers of £2 2s. and upwards shall in future be entitled to nominate such blind persons to enjoy the use of the Library as may be unable to pay a subscription for themselves, as follows :—

Annual subscribers of £2 2s., £4 4s., and £5 may nominate respectively one, two, or three readers of four books for so long as the subscriptions continue.

Donors of £10, £15 15s., and £21 may nominate respectively one, two, or three readers of four books for the lifetime of the donor, and so on—a new reader for every gift of £5 5s.

15. A meeting of the National Committee for the employment of the Blind was held at Nottingham, on February 23rd, when there were present Mr. Henry J. Wilson (in the chair), Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Macdonald, Meeson, Priestley, Purse, Stainsby, Stott, and Pine (Hon. Sec.). Miss Heywood and Messrs. Hewitt and Mullins wrote regretting their inability to be present. The meeting began at 11 a.m. and lasted until after 5 p.m., with only a brief interval for lunch, kindly provided in the Institution for the Blind. The chief business was a discussion on the important matter of Government contracts.

16. In our number for October last, we published the regulations issued by command of the Postmaster-General in regard to literature for the Blind, and now we have to report a further concession, viz., that in addition to the regulations already mentioned, a packet not exceeding 6 lbs. in weight can be sent for 2½d. This additional boon is entirely due to the initiative of a new and energetic worker on behalf of the Blind, Miss Austin, secretary of the National Lending Library for the Blind. She soon realised that as many of the books scaled over 5 lbs., steps should be taken to try to get the maximum weight extended from 5 lbs. to 6 lbs., and in November last she wrote us on the subject. Subsequently, accompanied and introduced by the Secretary of the British and Foreign Blind Association, she personally approached the Postmaster-General with the satisfactory result just mentioned. We feel sure that many will be grateful to her for having obtained this most useful further concession.

17. We have much pleasure in bringing to the notice of our readers a Braille Writing Indicator invented by Miss Florence C. Hedges, Cambridge House, Aylesbury. The clip with pointer shows where the last sign was written. The price is 2d., or 2½d. by post, and it can be obtained either from Miss Hedges or the British and Foreign Blind Association.

18. Miss M. M. Bell, a teacher at the Royal Normal College, wishes us to say that she would be very glad if anyone would kindly send her picture postcards for her blind pupils, who take a great delight in collecting them. The cards need not necessarily be embossed.

19. Can anyone kindly supply the Secretary of the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind, 125, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W., with Vol. I. of "Leaves from My Note Book," by T. Haslam, in Moon's type? It is required to replace a damaged volume.

20. Mr. C. H. Scott has given to Henshaw's Blind Asylum some property in Old Trafford, called Hayesleigh, on which it is

proposed to build a residential school for 150 blind children, at a cost of about £25,000. There are at present in the Institution 192 blind people (101 adults and 91 children). There were 30 competitive designs sent in for the new building, and Messrs. Mangnall and Littlewoods were elected architects at a meeting of Governors held on February 20th.

21. On January 17th, the Committee of the Association for the General Welfare of the Blind gave their usual annual entertainment to the blind workpeople at 258, Tottenham Court Road. On this occasion the entertainment took the form of a dinner, which was attended by 97 guests, of whom 73 were workers and pensioners of the Institution, the others being members of their families. The dinner was much appreciated, and was followed by a musical afternoon, which terminated at 6 p.m. The hearty thanks of the workers were offered to the Committee.

22. The annual tea party for the children in the schools for the Blind under the London County Council took place on January 18th, at Essex Hall, and was provided, as usual, by the Hoxton Schools Society. The entertainment began at 3 p.m. with recitations by Miss Elsie Fogerty, songs, violin solos, gramophone, etc., which lasted until 4 p.m., when a substantial tea was provided to the 300 children by the *Westminster Gazette* Christmas Fund. At 4.45 p.m. there was a distribution of useful presents to each child, who had previously received a bunch of flowers. The presents were sent by the "Girls' Realm" Guild, the North Hackney High School for Girls, and other friends of the Society. When tea was finished, a letter was read from Miss Beatrice Taylor, Hon. Sec. of the Sunbeam Mission, informing the "Sunbeam" children that a Braille frame and a pound of paper, costing 5/-, would be given to each of them who collected 2/- before June 30th in part payment. She also stated that the head teachers had kindly consented to receive any savings the children could bring from time to time towards the 2/-. The kind offer of the Sunbeam Mission was received with great cheering and enthusiasm, and we understand letters have been

received from the teachers warmly approving of the idea, promising to encourage the scheme in every possible way, and stating what a boon the possession of a frame will be to the children, especially to some of them who find it so very difficult to get one. At 5 p.m., the brakes appeared at the door of the hall, and the teachers and children went back to their respective schools after a most enjoyable afternoon. We should have mentioned that at the end of the proceedings Mr. John T. Taylor, L.C.C., Chairman of the Committee for looking after the schools for the Blind, called for three cheers for Miss Rose Petty, Hon. Sec. of the Hoxton Society, and this suggestion was taken up most enthusiastically by the children, who thoroughly realised what a large share of their enjoyment was due to Miss Petty, the energetic organiser of the entertainment. The kind invitation to be present was accepted by us with the greatest pleasure, because it is delightful to see how radiantly happy both teachers and children are on these annual occasions.

23. The annual Christmas Festival at the Royal Normal College for the Blind was held on January 21st, when the Bishop of London presided. An excellent programme was provided, consisting of organ solos, a very pretty carol, called "O Little Town of Bethlehem," pianoforte solos and duets, part songs, and concluding with the cantata, "Snow Fairies." All was rendered with that perfection and precision so well known at the College. The Bishop, in his address after the performance, said that he had gone to the College expecting to see something very wonderful, but he had seen something more wonderful than he expected. He had learnt the lesson never to sit down under misfortune, but to struggle bravely on until it was overcome, and he had also learnt from Dr. Campbell's example what can be done in the world by faith, hope, and courage. A vote of thanks to the Bishop for presiding was carried on the motion of the Lady O'Hagan, and seconded by Mr. H. J. Wilson. The Christmas Tree was unveiled by the Hon. Mrs. George Talbot. There was a large attendance, and everybody seemed to thoroughly enjoy the afternoon's entertainment.

The programme was repeated on January 26th, for the

benefit of the students' relations and friends, when Mr. H. J. Wilson presided, to whom a vote of thanks for taking the chair was moved in most kind and friendly terms by two quondam Gardner scholars, Miss Emily Lucas, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., and Miss Mabel Davis, L.R.A.M. On this occasion, the tree which was laden with pretty and useful presents, was unveiled by Mrs. C. J. Drummond. There was again a large gathering of visitors, and in the evening there were games for the students.

24. An evening inspection of the workrooms and gymnasium of the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, was afforded to visitors, from February 25th to March 8th. There were concerts and gymnastic displays, and on the first evening "The Centurion's Servant," a sacred cantata, had the composer, Mr. F. W. Priest, F.R.C.O., as accompanist. These annual concerts have been more successful than ever this year. On the Tuesdays and Thursdays, in addition to slides illustrating work amongst the Blind, there was a series of "Songs and Scenes from Many Lands," illustrated from beginning to end with beautiful slides by an electric lantern.

25. The Committee of the Leeds United Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb have recently purchased an adjoining site which, when altered, will, it is hoped, provide sufficient accommodation for some years to come. The site cost £1,510, and the necessary alterations will probably amount to about £500.

26. A new gymnasium and music class-rooms were opened at the Dundee Institution for the Blind, on March 22nd, by Lady Griselda Cheape. Sir William Ogilvy Dalgleish, Bart., presided, and an excellent concert was given, consisting of solos and part songs, and a piano solo, "Gavotte in E." After the concert, the visitors inspected the new premises, saw the blind pupils engaged at their school work, and witnessed a gymnastic display in the new gymnasium. They then visited the industrial departments, where the blind operatives were seen at work. The arrangements were well carried out by Mr. Colin Macdonald.

the energetic manager, who, we are glad to know, has quite recovered from his serious and long illness.

27. The fifty-first annual report of the London Home Teaching Society for the Blind was adopted at a meeting held on March 19th, at the house of Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Lawson-Johnston. The host occupied the chair in the regrettable absence of Lord Middleton through illness, who has never previously failed to take the chair at the annual meetings since he succeeded Lord Shaftesbury as President. The speakers were the Bishop of Woolwich, the Rev. A. Love, and Mr. W. H. Dixon, who gave an example of reading from Braille. There are 15 blind teachers and 1,918 blind persons on the registers.

28. The Committee of the Accrington and District Institution for the Blind have acquired new premises at 15, Avenue Parade, Accrington, which provide a residence for the Secretary, and include workrooms for both sexes. The adaptation of the premises, furniture, &c., cost about £90. Miss M. Field, of Oldham, gave an address at the Institute on February 13th. Three girls are employed at string bag making and stocking knitting, and three men are being instructed in boot repairing.

29. On the 1st of March, the Association for Home Teaching and Industrial Employment of the Blind, 65A, Park Street, Bristol, founded 1857, was incorporated with the Bristol Asylum or School of Industry for the Blind, Queen's Road, Clifton, Bristol, founded 1793. Thus all the work for the Blind in Bristol is practically brought under the control of one committee. The agreement as to the amalgamation is dated November 27th, 1906, and states that the Association shall be incorporated with the Asylum as from March 1st, 1907, and that all funds belonging to, and future gifts to, the Association shall belong to the Asylum. Arrangements have also been made that four members of the Association shall serve on the Asylum Committee, that the Home Teaching Society and the Library be managed, under the control of the Asylum Committee, by a sub-committee

consisting of four members of the Association and four of the Asylum, and that at least one member of the Association shall be on the Workshops Sub-committee. Plans for a new Institution to be built on a site of 12 acres at Southmead, Westbury-on-Trym, have been approved, and it is hoped that the building will be completed in 1909. There will be accommodation for 100 pupils, including those under and above 16 years of age. It is probable that the workshops will be removed to the city, and that provision will be made for about 70 men and women. The official title of the new Institution is "The Bristol Asylum, or School of Industry for the Blind, with which is Incorporated the Association for Home Teaching and Industrial Employment of the Blind."

30. A new wing is being added to the Southend Branch Home of the North London Homes for the Blind at a cost of about £1,600. It is hoped that the extension will be ready for occupation this month. Accommodation will be provided for ten more inmates and one additional help. During the nine years past, many blind people have been greatly benefited by staying at the Home.

31. The following is an extract from the twenty-fifth annual report of Gardner's Trust for the Blind for the year ended December 31st, 1906. The report appeared in the *Times* and *Manchester Guardian* of January 12th, and is also printed as a pamphlet, with the names and addresses of the pensioners:—

"The following disbursements have been made during the year under the various headings:—

1. £4,092 towards the board and tuition of 108 scholars at colleges and institutions, including four scholarships at £60 each tenable at the University of Oxford.

2. £2,860 to 225 pensioners. There are 27 pensioners at £20, 68 at £15, and 130 at £10 a year.

3. £1,499 to 34 institutions and societies towards the cost of new or enlarged buildings, general purposes, etc.

4. £561 towards the fees for the instruction of 59 pupils above the age of 16 at various schools and workshops.

5. £247 to 50 individuals for assistance in starting or carrying on their trades as pianoforte tuners, basket makers, mat makers, chair caners, etc.

The Committee are compelled to emphasise the fact that the amount of dividends which had accumulated during the proceedings in the Court of Chancery prior to 1882 is now practically exhausted, and as a considerable portion of the ordinary income of the Trust must be allocated to annual scholarships, grants, and pensions, it will be impossible in the future to make large donations for building purposes unless gifts are received that can be thus utilised.

The Committee think it necessary once more to draw attention to the fact that the applications for pensions, many of which are most urgent and deserving, are far in excess of the vacancies."

32. The Committee of the Workshops for the Blind, Cornwallis Street, Liverpool, are about to erect, at a cost of £15,000, an up-to-date factory, equipped with modern improvements and machinery, and to remodel the old building erected 38 years ago, in order to enable the 126 blind persons now employed, and additional blind employees, to work under better conditions than is at present possible. The land for the new building has already been purchased. According to the last census, there were 979 blind persons in Liverpool.

33. On March 12th, a conversazione was held at Newport, Monmouthshire, to create interest in the work of the Newport Blind Aid Society, which in June last extended its work for the benefit of the Blind throughout the county. There was an exhibition of things made by the Blind, and blind workers were seen at work. There were also some musical selections given by blind performers, including Mr. D. Roberts, the skilled blind harpist.

34. An industrial exhibition of articles made by the Blind was held last month at Weston-super-Mare, the arrangements being made by Miss Smith. The exhibits were formed into eight

classes, and the first prize in each class was £3. Goods were sent from Egypt, Palestine, India, and all parts of England, and more than 50 prizes were distributed. All exhibitors had to be totally blind. The 1st prize for musical compositions, the 1st prize for carpentry, and seven other prizes (£11 5s. in all), were carried off by pupils and former pupils of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, and the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes for knitting were won by the workers at the Bradford Institution for the Blind.

35. The first meeting of the North of England Union of Institutions, Societies, and Agencies for the Blind was held at the Institution for the Blind, Bradford, on Tuesday, November 6th, 1906. There were present representatives from the Societies and Institutions of Bradford, Bolton, Manchester (Henshaw's Blind Asylum and the Blind Aid Society), Accrington, Colne, Halifax, Wakefield, York, Stockport, and Oldham (Workshops and Blind Women's Industries). The constitution of the Union, having been prepared by a Provisional Committee, was submitted and unanimously agreed to. It was resolved to ask the Archbishop of York to be President of the Union: Mr. Gerald Peel, Parkfield, Swinton, Manchester, was elected Hon. Treasurer; and Miss Heywood, Claremont, Manchester, and Miss Wright, Northgate, Wakefield, undertook temporarily to be joint Hon. Secretaries. It was decided that the Central Committee, should meet quarterly—in February, May, August, and November—and an Executive Committee, consisting of the Hon. Officers, Messrs. Illingworth (Manchester), Stevenson (Accrington), Townson (Accrington), Warner (Bradford), Norwood (York), and Miss Field (Oldham) and Miss Rayner (Stockport), was elected to meet monthly, or oftener, and report to the Central Committee. It was decided to hold an annual conference in connection with the Union, and that the first should be held in May next, at York. It was decided to send to the 17 societies which have already joined the Union, and also to those Societies which have not yet done so, a short account of the proceedings of the first meeting, with the following list of means suggested for carrying out the objects of the Union,

which was approved by those present:—A Central Bureau. A Sub-Committee for each of the six Northern Counties. A system of after-care for pupils leaving Institutions. Employment for men and women. The care of the sick, aged, and helpless. The visitation of the Blind in workhouses and their own homes. The establishment of homes and refuges for the homeless, and of Homes of Rest or Convalescent Homes, and Homes for the sick and aged. Starting Societies for the Blind in districts where there are none. Sick and Benefit clubs, or one Central Club for the North with a good capital to back it up. A Pension Scheme for the Northern Counties and a Central Fund for the aid of the Blind, from which grants can be made to various Societies (as is done by Gardner's Trust). Awakening interest in, and sympathy for the Blind, and thus bringing more friends to their aid and lightening their sufferings. Home teaching, and the provision of Books in Moon and Braille types. A Quarterly or Monthly Magazine as a means of inter-communication for the use of the members of the Union. Inter-communication of Societies for the interchange or disposal of surplus manufactures, and to obtain work for blind workers.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Union was held on November 21st, at Manchester, and was well attended. It was agreed that the members of the Central Committee should be asked to help by acting as agents in their respective districts for acquiring the necessary information about the Blind in those areas.

A meeting of the General Committee was held at Leeds on February 27th, when Mr. F. J. Munby was elected permanent Chairman of Committee, and Miss Edith Wright, of Wakefield, was appointed Organising Secretary. The annual conference of the Union is to be held at York, on May 15th, when the Archbishop of York has promised to preside. The Chief Constables of the Counties and Cities have given valuable assistance in obtaining complete returns of all blind persons in the six northern counties.

36. Several books in Moon's type have been embossed recently by the Northern Counties Blind Society, 4 & 5, Howard

Street, North Shields—such as the “Life of Dr. Norman McLeod” and “Dr. Samuel Johnson,” price 3s. 6d. per vol., and D. Lyall’s “The Land o’ the Leal,” in 7 vols., price 2/- per vol. The Society also prints “Dawn,” a quarterly magazine, in Moon’s type, price 3s. 4d. per annum, post free, and has embossed several works in Braille, including “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” in 2 vols., price 9s. The Blind are engaged in the work, which is under the superintendence of Mr. H. V. Niederhausern.

37. An International Association of Blind Musicians has been formed in order (a) to circulate through its members manuscript music now existing in Braille; (b) to publish a Braille catalogue of all existing music in Braille, indicating the place where each piece is to be obtained and its original price; and (c) to take action on matters of common interest, such as the reduction of international rates of postage on embossed literature. The annual subscription is 2s. 6d. and should be sent to the secretary (pro. tem.), Herr Thilander, 112, Majorsgatan, Stockholm, Sweden, to whom all communications should be addressed.

38. Many of us were sorry when the publication of “The Mentor” by the Alumni Association of the Perkin’s Institute in the United States of America was discontinued about thirteen years ago, and, therefore, it is with pleasure that we welcome a new quarterly record of the progress and welfare of the Blind called “Outlook for the Blind.” It is published in ordinary type by the Massachusetts Association experimentally for one year, and in the editorial it is stated that the Association “acknowledges ‘The Mentor’ and ‘The Blind’ as its chief sources of inspiration in undertaking the experiment of publishing the ‘Outlook for the Blind.’” Mr. Norwood’s and Mr. Pine’s article, which appeared in our last number, is reprinted in the first number of this new magazine, which it is hoped will be a means of communication between the various institutions and organisations for the Blind in the United States. We have been favoured with an advance sheet of contents and

editorial for the first issue, and there seems much promise of interesting questions being discussed. The editor is Mr. Charles F. F. Campbell, and evidently he has inherited much of the ability and energy of his well-known father, the principal of the Royal Normal College.

39. The Home Secretary, in reply to a letter from Mr. Summerhill, M.P., drawing his attention to the injury done to the institutions for the Blind by prison-made goods, has written: "I am anxious to do whatever is possible to avoid injuring the industry of blind people, and I have therefore directed, as an experimental measure, the raising of the price of prison-made fenders to a figure which will, I hope, be found to meet the complaints of the institutions."

40. By the will of the late widow of Antoine Yusef Abdel Messieh, at the age of 70, the Institution for the Blind at Cairo has received a legacy which is calculated to produce £300 to £350 a year. An account of this deserving Institution was given not long ago in these pages. We have been favoured with a copy of the first annual report of the Institution, which states that it was founded in 1901 through the generosity of the late Mrs. T. R. Armitage, and in 1905 passed under the control of a representative committee in Cairo. There are 27 resident blind boys at the Institution at Zeitoun, and 10 day pupils attend the workshop at Boulac. Books are embossed by machinery in Braille for the Arabic-speaking Blind of Egypt. The report is printed in English and Arabic.

41. The headmaster of the Royal Blind Asylum, Craigmillar, Edinburgh, has published "The Royal Prince Readers," in revised Braille. Book I., 2 vols., price 2s. 6d. per vol.; Book II., 2 vols., price 2s. 6d. per vol.; Book III., 3 vols., price 3s. 6d. per vol.; Book IV., 3 vols., price 3s. per vol.; Book V., in 3 vols., will be ready shortly.

42. Miss Helen Keller was chief speaker at a meeting of the New York Association for the Blind, held on January 15th.

In her speech she said "the heaviest burden of the Blind is not blindness, but idleness. . . . His fellow citizens must furnish the market for his products and give him the encouragement without which no blind man can make headway. They must do more than this; they must meet him with sympathy that conforms to the dignity of his manhood and his capacity for service." It has been our privilege to read an account of this remarkable meeting, written by Miss Gertrude Hirst, who was present, to her father, Mr. Alfred Hirst, of Ruswarp, Whitby. She graphically described how all eyes in the large audience were attracted to Miss Keller, and how her speech was the event of the evening. Her voice was weak, and therefore Professor Graham-Bell, the inventor of the telephone, repeated her speech after her. There were excellent moving pictures of the students at the Royal Normal College and at Edinburgh School, and also an industrial exhibit, and blind girls working the telephone switchboard. The Misses Holt are to be highly congratulated on having organised such a successful meeting.

43. We have recently heard from Mr. Yoshimoto, who is going to read a paper at the Conference to be held next year, that "The Japan Blind Society" (or "Nippon Mojin Kai," as it is called in Japanese) has just been started in Tokyo. It is proposed to publish embossed books, start circulating libraries, print a magazine, help the poor in education and employment, &c. Lecture notes for those unable to attend higher schools were being printed when the letter was posted. Many well-known persons have already joined the Society, and its success seems assured. We congratulate Mr. Yoshimoto, who is well-known to many of us, on the result of his continuous efforts to better the condition of the Blind in Japan.

44. We have been in communication with Mr. A. M. Asquith, of Omdurman, and are glad to hear that he is interesting himself in the Blind of Kartûm, with the object of enabling them to undertake some industry there.

INSTITUTIONS.

Accrington. The thirty-second annual report of the Accrington and District Society for the Blind and Prevention of Blindness for the year ended September 30th, 1906, was presented at the annual meeting, held on November 29th, and presided over by the Mayor. There is a blind teacher who visits and teaches the blind in the district, and a free library. Special attention is given to the prevention of blindness. New premises have recently been obtained, and a workshop has been opened.

Brighton. The fourteenth annual report for the year ended December 31st, 1906, of the Barclay Home and School for Blind Girls, Wellington Road, Brighton, shows that the Home is full, having 74 inmates, of whom 36 are under, and 38 over 16 years of age. A new wing is being built at a cost of £1,950, which will accommodate 17 more inmates. There are mortgages amounting to £4,150 on the building. The chief industries are weaving, hand and machine knitting, basket making, laundry, housework, etc.

Bristol. The forty-eighth annual report of the Association for Home Teaching and Industrial Employment of the Blind, founded 1857, 65A, Park Street, Bristol, was read and adopted at a meeting held on February 12th. Reference is made to the amalgamation with the Bristol Blind Asylum, which took place on March 1st. There are three blind teachers, who visit nearly 200 blind men and women, and over 30 girls are constantly employed in the industrial branch. The sales amounted to £658, and £249 were paid in wages to the blind workwomen.

Edinburgh. The annual report for the year ended September 30th, 1906, of the Royal Asylum and School, Edinburgh, founded 1793, states that the improvements at West Craigmillar, at an estimated cost of £15,000, are nearing completion. A sum of £500 was distributed amongst 140 blind persons in all parts of Scotland, in grants varying from £3 to £10 each. The sales amounted to £17,566, and the wages to blind workers £2,494. There were 40 women, 23 girls, and 27 boys on the roll on September 30th at West Craigmillar, and 146 workpeople at Nicolson Street. Five of the children are

deaf as well as blind, and form a special class. Two magazines in Braille, viz., "Hora Jucunda" and "The Craigmillar Harp," are printed at this Institution, as well as a series of excellent selections from English poetry in 15 numbers. Each number consists of 50 pages, and is only 1/-, post free. A new set of School Readers in Revised Braille has been published. The report has several good illustrations, and also a price list of educational and other works.

Exeter. The sixty-seventh report of the West of England Institution for the Blind for the year ended December 31st, 1906, was adopted at a meeting held on February 15th, at the Institution, St. David's Hill, Exeter. Reference is made to the recent extensive alterations and additions (already mentioned in "The Blind"), and to the great advantage of a separate entrance to the new workshop for the journeymen. There are 60 pupils and 18 outworkers. Seven pupils attended the examinations of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and all were successful, two obtaining honours. The whole of the boot and shoe repairs of the Institution is undertaken by the pupils, and new boots and shoes are also made. The sales amounted to £1,021, wages to £344 to blind workmen, supplemental wages to £85, and legacies to £420.

Glasgow. The eightieth annual report for the year ended November 30th, 1906, of the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind was submitted at a meeting held on January 21st. Provision of new elementary and technical class rooms is about to be made, with accommodation for 130 pupils. It is also proposed to build and furnish a holiday home and sanatorium at a cost of £3,000. Blind persons to the number of 288 were benefited by the Institution in being boarded, clothed, educated, and employed, and £7,072 were distributed to the Blind in the form of wages and allowances. The sales in the Industrial department amounted to £10,084. The report of H.M. Inspector is exceptionally good, and reflects the greatest credit on the "indefatigable and intelligent labours" of the teachers in obtaining such successful results. The Sunbeam Mission is much appreciated by the managers, and befriends 25 of the most friendless pupils.

Hanley. The 4th annual report of the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind, Victoria Road, Hanley, for the year ended June 30th, 1906, shows that 17 males and seven females are employed. The sales amounted to £1,505, and a sum of £38 19s. 6d. was paid in subsidizing the wages of learners. The females are chiefly engaged in making slop-pail handles. A legacy of £100 has been left to the Institution by Mr. Godfrey Wedgwood.

London. The annual report for nine months ended September 30th, 1906, of the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, W., has been published. Regular employment is provided for 77 blind men and women, and weekly pensions to 19 more. It has been decided to sell the existing premises, and to remove the factory and retail premises to more suitable localities. The sales amounted to £9,459, the wages to the Blind £1,602, and supplementary wages £267.

North Wales. The twenty-fourth annual report for the year ended July 1st, 1906, of the North Wales Home Teaching Society for the Blind, was presented at the annual meeting, held in Llandudno, on November 22nd. During the year, portions of the Prayer Book have been embossed in Welsh in Moon's type, and the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Ruth in Welsh are in the press. There are 324 blind persons visited. Much regret was evinced when Miss Jones, teacher in the Portmadoc District tendered her resignation after nine years' faithful and devoted service on behalf of the Blind, to whom she had much endeared herself.

Nottingham. The 62nd annual report of the Midland Institution for the Blind, Chaucer Street, Nottingham, for the year ended March 31st, 1906, was presented at the annual meeting held on July 6th, when Lord Henry Bentinck presided. In the Technical School there are 22 girls and 32 young men, and in the workshop 38 men and four women. The sales amounted to £6,953, and £1,237 were paid in wages to blind workpeople and journeymen. A sum of £89 was devoted to assisting old pupils. The new workshops and buildings are now practically completed.

RE-OPENING OF THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND.

These workshops are in Victoria Road, Hanley, and the premises have recently been purchased and adapted at a cost of £1,500 (of which sum £1,000 were given by an anonymous donor), and will be held in perpetuity for the benefit of the Blind. The re-opening took place on February 28th, when the Mayor of Hanley presided. The Earl of Dartmouth was to have performed the ceremony of re-opening, but unfortunately he was prevented by illness from attending. His place was taken by Lady Dartmouth, who was accompanied by her daughter, Lady Dorothy Legge. The street was lined by the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the N.S. Regiment, which was to have formed a guard of honour to the Lord Lieutenant, and a procession took place, headed by Lady Dartmouth and Mr. Greatbatch, the energetic chairman of the Workshops, from the Workshops to the Volunteer Drill Hall, where the Meeting was held.

After the Mayor had welcomed Lady Dartmouth, Mr. Greatbatch gave an excellent address in which he set forth the aims and objects of the workshops, and stated that the premises had cost £1,300, and the necessary alterations another £200. This sum of 1,500 had been raised. There was a messroom both for the men and for the women, and Mrs. Godfrey Wedgwood had given £1,000 in memory of her husband to start an endowment fund. He thanked the manufacturers of the district for supporting the Committee, support which had been so effectual that since the workshops were opened, five years ago, not a single blind employee had been short of a day's work. At present there were twenty-six blind workers, but it was expected to increase the number each year by one child from the School at The Mount, Stoke-on-Trent. Mr. Greatbatch concluded by saying that it went to his heart to have to say to the children on leaving the Mount, "Now go and do what you can, where you can." The workshops were consequently founded under the guidance and assistance of the late Mr. Godfrey Wedgwood, and he, Mr. Greatbatch, on behalf of the Committee, accepted the duty and pleasure of seeking to carry on the workshops

so that every blind person in the north of the county might find occupation, and become wage-earning and self-supporting citizens. At the conclusion of Mr. Greatbatch's interesting address, the Chairman called on Mr. H. J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust, who emphasized the importance of workshops, and congratulated the Committee on having purchased such desirable premises. He also referred to the sources from which assistance can be obtained for children on attaining the age of 16, when they have to leave school, and expressed a strong hope that Mrs. Godfrey Wedgwood's most generous gift of £1,000 may be followed by additional local assistance being given to the workshop, as such assistance would help and encourage deserving blind persons anxious and willing to do all they could to earn their own living. After Mr. Wilson's address, the chairman called on the Ven. Archdeacon Crump, who said that in the county of Stafford a careful house-to-house visitation had been made, and they had accounted for every blind child in that area, and were satisfied that proper and suitable education was provided for each. But, he added, the sympathy of the sighted should materialise and come to the assistance of the Blind when their education was completed and they left school. The blind workmen were saying, "Help us to help ourselves," and surely they of the Potteries, having put their hand to the plough, were not going to look back, and would never fail nor forsake the Blind.

A vote of thanks to Lady Dartmouth having been proposed by Mr. Frank Wedgwood, seconded by the Lady Farrer, and carried with enthusiasm, her Ladyship said it gave her great pleasure to be present, and that it was a bitter disappointment to Lord Dartmouth to be unable to accompany her.

On the motion of the Rector of Stoke, seconded by Mr. Adcock, a vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor for presiding, and after he had replied thereto, the procession re-formed, and Lady Dartmouth formally declared the workshops open and admitted the blind workers. The hymn, "O God, our help in ages past," was then sung, the first verse being well rendered as a solo by Miss Gertie Lambert, who is blind, and the workers went to the employment in which they are severally occupied, viz., basket and

hamper making, cane and wicker work. Subsequently tea was provided to guests and workpeople, and in the evening there was an excellent concert. Thus ended a most successful and well-arranged gathering, and we congratulate Mr. Greatbatch most heartily on having secured, chiefly through his untiring efforts, buildings suitable to employ able-bodied blind men and women, and we feel sure that they also will appreciate the kind efforts and the generous monetary gifts made on their behalf.

We had often heard of the good work carried on by Mr. and Mrs. Story at the School for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, at The Mount, and therefore it was with much pleasure that we accepted their kind invitation to stay the night there. On the morning of the next day, Mr. Story kindly took us all over the school, and we were much interested in, and delighted with all we saw, which certainly in no way detracted from, but added to, the good opinion which we had previously formed from hearsay of the high tone and excellent arrangements of the school.

H. J. W.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF TRAINING AND EDUCATING THE BLIND TO BECOME USEFUL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY. HOW CAN THESE DIFFICULTIES BEST BE SURMOUNTED?

An Address delivered at the Fifth Congress on Behalf of the Cause of the Abnormal, at Stockholm, in July, 1903, by Mr. J. Moldenhawer, Director of the Royal Institution for the Blind, Copenhagen. (*Translated from the Danish by Mr. Frederick Fribert, Professor of Music at the Institution.*)

In asking your attention at this meeting, I do not wish to imply that I have anything new to reveal, my intention only being to discuss the best means of securing good practical results of the training afforded to blind pupils.

The great difficulties inherent in an undertaking of this nature can best be realised by casting a retrospective glance into bygone days.

In an age when even a gifted person, when even those enjoying perfect health and in possession of acute senses of sight and hearing could with difficulty set about pursuing some course of intellectual cultivation, or some other course of training according to the bent of their minds or faculties, and when so much had to be left to chance, no course of training of any kind whatever could be expected to adapt itself to the benefit of anyone abnormally afflicted. A feeling of human fellowship and duty might move along two lines, one starting from the recognition of the common rights of humanity in connection with a belief in the possibility of developing the powers of mind even of those most cruelly afflicted from congenital causes, the other line springing from some natural, innate sympathy for the sufferings of the less favoured of our race and a desire to alleviate their lot. Thus philanthropists and philosophers of the eighteenth century were carrying on their humane endeavours, partly independent of each other, but also to some extent joining hands, so as to create the impulse that gave the start to the earliest regulated arrangements for the benefit of the Blind and of the deaf mutes; these efforts more and more stirring up an open-handed generosity that made itself felt in ever-widening circles of society, and stimulating mental activity in the cause of all those afflicted in such a way as to be classed as abnormal.

Cultured Christendom has now advanced far enough to recognise it as a duty of society, and also to some extent of the Government, to do so much for the abnormally afflicted children fitted to receive instruction that thus good practical results may be obtained.

As for the Blind, these efforts have borne fruit in the founding of training colleges for the Blind, charitable endowments for blind pupils who have left school, special societies for looking after and aiding the efforts to get on in life of painstaking Blind (both former pupils of the institutions and individuals who have lost their sight later in life), homes for more or less able-bodied blind women, workshops for the male Blind, elementary Schools, Kindergarten schools and asylums for blind children under the age of schooling, etc.

Formerly, the securing of good results of the efforts made on behalf of the Blind was often greatly hindered by the fact that many of them were placed too late under skilful instruction to reap any benefit at all from it.

It was considered undesirable to remove blind children from their homes at too tender an age, and many parents kept their children at home so long that there was small chance of making them useful members of society, often, in fact, no chance at all.

In this respect there is a marked change for the better. Blind children who receive no instruction at home are ordered by law to be placed at some institution, and also parents who are sufficiently enlightened to recognise the importance of securing educational advantages for their children at an early age, eagerly apply for their early admission.

As compulsory schooling in Denmark does not practically include blind children, the latter course has been very much the custom in this country, becoming even more so since the founding of a primary school at Strandlyst, near Kallundborg. This has greatly facilitated matters for parents, as the opportunity of placing children as early as the age of six has greatly diminished any lingering inclination to keep them at home until they are older than the ordinary age for admission to the institution—that is to say, the age of ten or twelve.

Another primary school founded by the Society, called “The Chain,” has also been used in the same way.

A very essential feature in the scheme of tuition at the institutions is the introduction of a training in some remunerative craft or profession, this training thus forming a part of the education proper from the very first.

The question is, first, how to instil into the pupil the need of diligence and perseverance : and, secondly, how to make him proficient in a craft by which he may later on be able to become self-supporting ?

In regard to the first of these two points, stress must be laid on teaching the pupil the proper use of his hands and making him acquire the habit of attending carefully to any work in which he may be employed, and to make him love this work for

its own sake so as to look forward with interest to the results of his labours. The second point must be to consider most carefully, and at the very outset, the choice of the calling most likely to bring success with it in after life.

Here we are hampered at once by the very limited number of professions from which to choose. This restriction is partly owing to the circumstance that so many kinds of work are not fitted for blind persons, and partly to the fact that many a task which may be satisfactorily performed without the aid of sight is not suitable for instruction to those of tender years, or at an institution.

The question is how to make a proper selection, as it must be well considered what kind of work blind persons are likely to perform so as to give satisfaction, if left to themselves without supervision or help. The necessity of the quality of the work being as good as that of the sighted, and the likelihood of a market for this work near the blind workman's eventual residence must always be borne in mind.

It is important that healthy and clever individuals should be afforded an opportunity of learning some subordinate occupation besides their principal trade so as to make it possible for them to have this subordinate work to fall back on if business should prove slack in their chief trade, or if time should hang a little heavily on their hands.

A handicraft very suitable for this purpose is brush-making. How useful this trade is for the Blind may easily be seen from the fact of its being also suitable as a subordinate occupation for musicians and piano-tuners as well as for blind girls, along with their sewing and knitting. It can also be taught to persons who have lost their sight as adults.

What especially recommends brush-making for favourable consideration is the fact of its being so easily mastered by blind people with only a limited time at their disposal—all the more important when it has to be learnt without taking time from one's chief trade, or in case of an adult having to serve apprenticeship in it.

Sad to say, the value of brush-making as a remunerative

occupation for the Blind is somewhat impaired through its being so extensively used as a domestic industry and employed as prison work, and also through the competition with factory and machine work.

In this respect basket-making proves superior to brush-making, but basket-making requires so long an apprenticeship that in a great many cases it cannot be employed to its full extent, but only limited to easier and more simple forms, and it pre-supposes a sense of symmetry and a faculty of remembering many details as to measure and proportion not possessed by everybody.

Rope-making is a trade in which the Blind can compete more favourably with the sighted as regards quality of workmanship than is ordinarily the case, but the drawback is the necessity of capital with which to start business, and to provide some sheltered walk independent of inclement weather or temperature. It must also be mentioned that in some places metal chains are preferred to ropes.

Shoemaking has been found both in Denmark and Norway a trade well suited to the Blind ; but in order to come up to the standard of finished workmanship special tools are required. Tools of this kind were invented by the predecessor of the present teacher in shoemaking at the Institution at Copenhagen, and have been further improved upon by his successor, with the result that a blind man can produce work as good as that of the sighted.

In many places on the Continent it has been thought too risky to train blind people in shoemaking, but here and there some shoemaking has been going on in a small way. Preparations are now being made in England for an experiment in this direction, and a blind Englishman, competent for this undertaking, has finished a course of training in shoemaking at the Institution at Copenhagen in order to fit himself for the position of teacher in this craft to the Blind in his own country.

A trade taught here to all male pupils is the weaving of cocoa mats, which has superseded the weaving of straw mats and rush mats. This is the kind of work given to beginners,

and everyone desirous of being apprenticed to a trade must prove that he is able to weave a mat without assistance. For those who may be a little clumsy in the use of their fingers this work may perhaps become a chief source of income. Sometimes it is also taught to blind women.

Another work comparatively easy to learn is cane-bottom-making, which may be taught in connection with basket-making, though it is also often taught as a more independent trade suited to the male as well as to the female Blind.

As regards music, this profession affords the Blind in Denmark so many opportunities of communication with other members of Society that it has easily attained a high and important place in the curriculum. Bearing in mind the powerful influence of music on the æsthetic culture of the Blind, and the way in which it awakens their sense of beauty, the favoured position accorded to the pursuit of this art at the Institution at Copenhagen will seem quite natural. On the other hand, it follows that the difficulties which may elsewhere militate against the chances of the Blind ever obtaining a remunerative musical post must needs entirely change its position as a special pursuit, so that many institutions where this is the case, naturally confine the musical instruction within the limits proper to a pursuit serving only as a means of recreation and distraction.

As regards adopting music as a profession, it is necessary to recognise the fact that some length of time must often elapse after the blind musician has finished his training and before he succeeds in obtaining a post as organist, or in securing some other permanent musical engagement. This being the case, it will be seen how necessary it is for a blind musician to have some other remunerative work to turn to in the interval, serving also as a means to fill up spare time. For this purpose brush-making is excellently fitted, and it has served well in a great number of cases until the aspirant has become sufficiently occupied by his musical engagements.

A calling specially suited to the Blind is that of a piano-tuner, which may prove very remunerative, though as a rule only in cases where a connection has been formed through the fact of

a piano-tuner having obtained a post as organist. This is particularly so in a provincial town. On the whole, the prejudice against blind piano-tuners seems to be greatly on the wane, so that this calling may very likely become a remunerative one for the Blind to follow if every precaution is taken that thoroughly grounded tuners only are sent out from the institutions, in order that the holders of engagements may serve as a recommendation for their successors.

In this case, as in several others, success will be ensured when once the public are so firmly convinced of the idea of this kind of work being very suitable for blind persons, that employing blind tuners will become the fashion—as, in fact, it has become to some extent in France and in the United States. But great care must be taken that those persons who are sent out into the world in this capacity and thus come in contact with refined families in their own homes are themselves well-behaved and present a neat appearance.

It is easily seen what an important part this plays in the successful pursuit of a musical career, and also in that of a masseuse. A great help to the Blind in obtaining a quiet and self-possessed bearing, free from awkwardness, is physical training, so that a liberal allowance of time for this branch is an absolute condition for furthering the practical aims of an institution for the Blind.

Taking the case of blind girls into special consideration, we at once see, that the difference between their training and that of their sighted sisters must be far greater than is the case of blind and sighted boys.

With blind girls, the object is to make them as clever as possible in house-work and other duties awaiting them at home after leaving the institution. While steadily progressing in their needlework or machine-sewing, they are often able to be taught some craft requiring extra skill, or to gain sufficient proficiency in music, more particularly organ-playing, so as to be able to perform the duties required of an organist at some small chapel.

It must also be considered very important to give domesti-

cally disposed girls some opportunity of learning the art of cooking, as has for some years been the custom at our institution, where the initiation into culinary mysteries has now become a regular branch of knowledge, imparted along with ordinary house-work, including also laundry-work.

After leaving school, massage is taught to those girls who are thought likely to succeed in it, and who care to learn it.

A general survey of the education and training of the Blind shows us that its aim is similar to that of all other education, in so far as it aims at securing a harmonious development of mind and body. To this, however, a school for the Blind is obliged to add a training in some profession or craft that may render it possible for the pupils later on to maintain themselves, either entirely or at least to some extent, according to their abilities or cleverness.

Of the utmost importance for them is the formation of character, which may lay the foundation of that energy and perseverance so necessary to fight against the hardships of existence, which are sure to be so much greater for the Blind than for their sighted brethren.

It is all very well for a blind person to be competent and thoroughly proficient in his own work, but he cannot get on without self-reliance, and he must know how to assert himself whenever an opportunity offers.

We who take an interest in the welfare of the Blind must bear in mind the great importance of securing a good start for our blind protégé in a place where the advantages of his or her training and education can be best utilized. This also contributes to that contentment which may be considered as one of the purposes of existence, and it also offers the means necessary for living a life consistent with human dignity. Thus, the watch-word must be: Give the Blind work, permanent work! Remunerate them according to the value of their work, and not as if doling out a charitable pittance. It is requisite that the work of the Blind be fully recognised, as fully as that of the sighted. It is already a serious drawback for a blind person that he has so few occupations to choose from, and that he has to

work at a slower rate than the sighted, so that he has to make up for it by working longer and more rigorously than the sighted. Any habit of undervaluing the work of the Blind, or of classing them along with the most unskilled applicants for work must be strictly guarded against, as only adding another difficulty to those already besetting their efforts to gain a livelihood.

Taking into consideration the great difficulties of securing customers, and the natural disinclination of blind persons to move very far away from familiar surroundings, it may often prove a great blessing to them to be able to resort regularly to some permanent and well-located working-organisation specially arranged for the Blind, where they can either dispose of their wares or obtain employment.

The plan of housing a number of blind men in some common Home and Workshop for the Blind has now luckily been given up as far as regards the able-bodied among them. Sale-rooms for the articles of blind workmanship, and workshops for blind men, such as those in Copenhagen, will answer this purpose well in large towns.

As for blind girls, some are naturally expected to confine themselves to the performance of modest domestic duties at home, but in addition to these, there may be a small number who have by their superior competence and ability been able to create for themselves more independent positions; still, it is a difficult thing for blind women without connections to support themselves.

How fortunate it is that women thus situated can be admitted to Homes specially adapted for blind women—for those too infirm to work and thus needing support (as at the Home and Workshop at Copenhagen), or for such as are able-bodied and clever with their hands, but who require a guiding hand to steer them through the affairs of their practical everyday life.

For the benefit of women of the latter class, a Home has been founded on the outskirts of Copenhagen, well-arranged and comfortable in every way, where each blind woman is entitled to a room to herself, board, washing, and sick-nursing in case of illness. The expenses (200 kr. per annum), are paid for either

by private means or out of an endowment fund, while dress and other small extras are paid for out of the blind woman's own earnings, to all of which she is entitled. This arrangement, which is carried on under the supervision of a cultured lady, and affords the inmates opportunities of mental relaxation and pursuits, has proved highly beneficial, making happy and contented beings of the inmates, and spreading industrious and active habits among them.

It is a happy fact, that in the course of time, as attention has been drawn more and more to the condition of the Blind, and to the amelioration of their lot, and as their great working-power has become recognised, many able supporters and promoters of their well-being have come from among their own midst, that is to say, from the more prominent personages of their own world.

As an illustration of this it may be mentioned that several Homes for a small number of blind people, under blind supervision, have sprung up here and there, and that many blind persons have become teachers of the Blind. While mentioning this, I may state, that many men and women who have become blind as adults, are apprenticed to former pupils of the Copenhagen Institution for the Blind, an arrangement which has given every satisfaction.

Having only desired to speak about the Blind who are educated at Institutions, I shall not enter into any closer discussion about the training of such as have become blind as adults.

I here conclude my address, expressing the wish that the work going on for the welfare of the Blind may progress more and more, both here, where so much has been done, and also in those places where the interest for the Blind has not yet been awakened.

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 39.

JULY, 20TH, 1907.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

In accordance with our promise in the last number we now give an article on "The Educational and Industrial Institutions for the Blind in Scotland," by Mr. Colin Macdonald, the well-known Manager of the Institution for the Blind at Dundee. Mr. Macdonald's long experience with Schools and Workshops for the Blind makes the article of great interest and value. For our next number Mr. J. Frew Bryden has kindly promised to write an article on "The Societies and Missions for the Blind in Scotland."

At our special request, Mr. Norwood, Superintendent of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, has kindly written an interesting account of the Conference of the North of England Union of Societies for the Blind held last May in York. Dr. Eichholz's important remarks will be read with great interest, as they show plainly how the Board of Education fully realizes, and is anxious to cope with, the difficulties attendant on blind children on attaining the age of 16 years.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. We much regret to have to report the death, in April last, of the 8th Viscount Midleton and Baron Brodrick, of Peper Harow, Surrey, in his 77th year. Lord Midleton was blind and took much interest in questions dealing with the Blind. He was President of the London Home Teaching

Society for the Blind, and as we stated in our last number, the annual meeting held in March was the first one at which he had not presided since he was appointed President.

2. In No. 36 of "The Blind," for October last year, reference was made to Mr. J. G. Wilkinson, the blind naturalist, and to his aged mother, who devoted her life to her son's interest. We regret to report that she died last June, and great indeed must be the loss to the son, whose companion she constantly was in his botanical studies, both in reading to him from scientific books and in collecting specimens.

3. We have received the following information about former students at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, at Worcester:—

The Rev. A. J. Dexter, who has been Curate at St. Matthew's, Victoria Docks, for seven years, has been appointed Vice-Principal of Dorchester Missionary Training College, and takes up his work there in October next.

Mr. Thomas G. Osborn has passed his preliminary examination and also the first examination for the Degree of Mus. Bac. at Oxford.

Mr. A. H. Powell, of St. John's College, Oxford, has recently passed in group A. in the final examination of the B.A. degree.

Mr. W. Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac., has obtained the Hambourg prize of £10 for a composition for the piano.

3A. Mr. G. F. Whittleton, late student of the Royal Normal College, and of Wadham College, Oxford, has taken third-class honours in the Final School of Jurisprudence.

4. Mr. H. Furniss, of Hertford College, who took second class honours in History in 1894, has recently obtained at Oxford the Diploma in Economics with distinction.

5. Mr. Lawley T. Smith has resigned his post as Hon. Secretary of the Wolverhampton Society for the Blind, after 21 years' devoted service, and has been succeeded by Mr. Frank H. Whitehouse.

6. Mr. G. H. Raison has been appointed Superintendent at the School for Blind and Deaf Children, Blenheim Walk, Leeds, in the room of Mr. Dutchburn, deceased, and took up his duties on June 29th.

7. Mr. F. E. Cheek, of the Institution for the Blind in Tottenham Court Road, London, has been appointed Manager of the Institution for the Blind at Leicester, in the place of Mr. J. Draycott, resigned.

8. We have to thank many readers for kindly sending, or offering to send, their copies of No. 36 of "The Blind," which we asked for in our last number. We especially thank two anonymous donors for kindly acceding to our request, the wrappers bearing the postmarks of Oxford and apparently of London, respectively.

9. Miss A. B. Heberden, Elmfield House, Exeter, will be much obliged if anyone would kindly inform her where she can procure "Santa Lucia" for September, 1894.

10. A deputation, consisting of Miss I. M. Heywood, Miss E. Wright and Mr. W. H. Illingworth, from the North of England Union of Institutions for the Blind, addressed last month a meeting at Lancaster, presided over by the Mayor, with the result that a Society for helping the Blind of Lancaster and District was formally started, although a preliminary meeting had been held on April 24th. It was stated that there are 8,000 blind persons in the six Northern Counties.

11. Mrs. Dow, whose death we announced in our last number, has left a legacy to the National Lending Library of £100, to be equally divided between the Arnold Carriage Fund, from which assistance is given to poor readers in paying the carriage of their books, and the Dow Blind Fund, which gives employment to blind persons, in copying Braille books for the library.

12. To the list of prize-winners at the Exhibition held at Weston-super-Mare, mentioned in our last number, we have to add, 1st prize for mat making, and 2nd prize for sewing, gained by two workers at the Cardiff Institute for the Blind.

13. A meeting of the Committee appointed to organize the Conference on the Blind, to be held in Manchester next year, was held in London, on July 6th, when there were present Miss Moon, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Dr. Campbell, Messrs. Barnes, Collingwood, Munby, Pine, Plater, Stainsby, Illingworth (Hon. General Secretary), and H. J. Wilson (Chairman). Messrs. Frew Bryden and Tate wrote regretting their inability to be present. Many important questions were settled, including the date of the Conference, viz.: July 27th to August 1st, a Special Service being held on Sunday, July 26th. The arrangements already made by the Local Committee show the zeal and determination with which they have taken up the matter, and the hospitality which will be shown to members of the Conference. The handbook promises to be of exceptional interest, and is being drawn up by experts. The preliminary circular was considered and approved, and will be sent, as soon as possible, to every known Institution and Society for the Blind in the world.

14. An important meeting, summoned by the Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association, was held at 206, Great Portland Street, W., on July 5th, at 2 p.m., with reference to granting diplomas to teachers of the Blind. The Superintendents of the various Schools for the Blind had been previously written to on the subject, and in the majority of cases the replies were in favour of the scheme. The suggestion originated with Dr. Eichholz, who thought that the Association, or some other society, should issue diplomas to teachers who pass a satisfactory examination in Braille reading, writing, arithmetic, etc., and in the methods and matter connected with the effective teaching of the Blind. The diploma is intended to be separate from, and in addition to, the ordinary certificates obtained by sighted teachers. An Association was formed, to be called "College of Teachers of the Blind," and regulations were drafted, which will be circulated in due course.

15. The "Stainsby-Wayne" Automatic Braille interliner has recently been much improved and strengthened. The price of the machine for paper $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide is 30/-, and for paper 10 in. wide 35/-. The postage is 6d., and a convenient portable wooden case with a leather handle can be provided for 2/6 extra. A specimen of the machine and case can be seen at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. For the same sized papers, there has just been invented a "Stainsby-Wayne" Braille interpointer, price with case, 37/6 and £2 2 0 respectively. We have tried the machine, which is most ingeniously contrived, works with perfect ease, and there is no difficulty in adjusting the paper. It ought to prove very useful to Braille writers. Any of the above mentioned machines can be obtained from Mr. Alfred Wayne, 98, Westminster Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, who will be pleased on application to give further particulars.

16. Monday, June 3rd, was a great day in the annals of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood. The King and Queen, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Princess Victoria, graciously attended the concert and gymnastic display given by the pupils on that date, at the Albert Hall. On the arrival of their Majesties they were received by the Earl of Kilmorey, the Earl of Pembroke, and Mr. Hilton Carter, representing the Albert Hall authorities, and at the door of the Royal Box by Lord Howard de Walden, President of the College, Dr. Campbell, Principal of the Normal College, Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr, Chairman of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, and others connected with the College. Queen Alexandra and the Princess of Wales graciously accepted lovely bouquets, presented by two of the blind pupils. A large audience testified to the interest felt in the proceedings, and gave the Royal party a hearty welcome as they entered their box. The first part of the afternoon's entertainment consisted of glees and solos, vocal and instrumental, among them being especially noticeable a brilliant performance of Mendelssohn's "Capriccio Brillante" for piano

and orchestra, by Master Wilfrid Kershaw, accompanied by an orchestra from the Guildhall School of Music. The second part was spent in the performance of calisthenics and gymnastics, excellently carried out under the direction of Mr. Guy Campbell, the music accompanying the dumb-bell and other exercises being written by Mr. Horace Watling, F.R.C.O., a student of the College. The whole entertainment went without a hitch, and on leaving at its close the King was graciously pleased to ask Lord Pembroke and Lord Kilmorey to say to those who had arranged it, "We have enjoyed the whole performance immensely, and think it very wonderful."

On Wednesday, May 29th, the Royal Normal College was visited by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Albany.

17. In the May number of the magazine "School Nature Study," an interesting article appeared, entitled "Nature study among blind children," by Miss M. M. Bell, one of the staff of the Royal Normal College for the Blind. The article opens with an instructive and realistic dialogue between "Miss Brown" and her pupils. The children have their own separate gardens to attend to, and they soon become much interested in the different flowers and their production from bulb or seed. The lessons in nature study are given out of doors whenever possible, so that the children can stand round the trees or bushes, and learn their names from the shape of the leaves. Nature study seems well adapted for blind children, and Miss Bell has shewn in a pleasing way how soon they become absorbed in this interesting subject.

18. A Festival Banquet in aid of the funds of the London Society for teaching the Blind, 10, Upper Avenue Road, N.W., was held on April 22nd, at the Hotel Metropole. Lord Alverstone presided, and we are pleased to report that a sum of £1,240 was raised for the Society.

19. At the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Blind Pension Society, held on May 29th, it was resolved that in future the pensions should be increased from £6 to £9 a year at

sixty, instead of sixty-five, years of age. By this resolution 165 of the pensioners at once received the advantage of an additional 5/- a month.

20. The following books have recently been printed in Moon's type by Moon's Embossing Society, at 104, Queen's Road, Brighton:—"Hero Tales of American History," 4 vols. "General Grant," 2 vols." Tennyson's "In Memoriam," 2 vols. "Song of our Syrian Guest," 1 vol. "Ministering Children Abroad," 1 vol. "His Wife's Deceased Sister," 1 vol. "The Prisoner of Chillon," 1 vol. "The Old Theology, being three Sermons by Canon Flynn," and "Genesis" and the "Epistle to the Romans," in Tamil.

21. It was with much regret that we were unable to accept the kind invitation of the Principal of the School for the Blind at Leatherhead, to an afternoon Concert, held at the School on June 26th. After the Concert a Tablet recording the History of the Institution was unveiled by the Hon. Alban Gibbs.

22. The re-opening of the Branch Home of the North London Homes for the Aged Blind at Southend-on-Sea, took place on June 12th. The extension of the premises has cost £1,440, the furniture about £60. The Rev. H. and Mrs. Bright, the founders of the North London Home, are to be congratulated on having raised the whole of the money before the Branch was re-opened.

23. From time to time we have given the names of classical works written out in Braille and added to the Oxford Free Public Library. A new catalogue has recently been published, and reference is made to the fact that this branch of the Library was founded by Mr. W. H. Dixon, M.A., who realized the difficulties with which blind students had to contend on coming up to the University. The matter was warmly taken up by Miss Heberden and the late Miss Wickham, and at the present time there are nearly 600 volumes written out in Braille by philanthropic ladies. Applications for the loan of some of

these books have come from English and Scotch Universities and also from Germany. A Braille catalogue has been prepared by Mrs. Godley. As the library had to be literally made, University students owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Dixon for originating the scheme and for his continuous energy and interest in it.

24. Just on going to press, we have received a copy of Messrs. Maurice de la Sizeranne's "The Blind Sisters of St. Paul" (the authorised translation by L. M. Leggatt), from Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co., the publishers, and we hope to review it in our next number. We strongly recommend our readers to buy a copy of this most interesting and fascinating work, price 7/6, by one who is himself blind, and is so well known and deservedly respected in the 'blind' world.

25. Mr. W. Mead, the able Superintendent of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society, 8, Red Lion Square, W.C., wrote to the West Ham Borough Council, and asked that a blind man and his guide might be allowed to travel on the West Ham tramways for a single fare. Mr. Mead's letter was discussed with some warmth, and the result of the voting was 27 against the proposal, and 18 in favour of it. Mr. Mead does not intend to let the matter drop, and we wish him better luck next time. Will any of our readers kindly let us know of towns in which privileges of this kind are granted to the Blind?

26. A very successful meeting of the Blind residing in East Monmouthshire was held on May 27th, at the Parish Room, near Trevethic Church, when an address was given by the Rev. J. Swinnerton.

27. The Minister of Public Works in Denmark has granted permission for guides, accompanying blind persons travelling in the interests of their professions or trades," to obtain free passes on the State railways. It has been arranged that on a document signed by the Hon. Secretary of the "Association for Promoting the Independence of the Blind" being presented by

the blind traveller to the Inspector at any railway station, a free pass shall be given for his guide when he takes a third class ticket for himself. If desired, the guide can obtain a return ticket, and return alone. We understand that Mr. Moldenhawer has been chiefly instrumental in obtaining this valuable concession. English railways please copy!

28. The 9th Convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind is to be held in Boston, from August 27th to 30th. Representatives from all parts of the United States and Canada have promised to attend, and it is likely to be a very interesting meeting. We have been favoured with an advance programme, which contains the following subjects for discussion:—(1) Occupations for the Blind; (2) Home and the Boarding Problem; (3) Home Teaching and After-Care; and, (4) Types, size and shape of Books, &c.

29. The 12th Congress of the Teachers of the Blind is to be held at Hamburg from September 23rd to 27th next. There will be an exhibition of educational appliances, which should be sent before August 1st. All applications to take part in the Conference should be addressed to Director Merle, 32, Alexanderstrasse, Hamburg.

30. Two Schools for the Blind have been founded in Portugal by that well-known friend of the Blind, Mr. Branco Rodriguez—one in Lisbon in 1901, and the other in Oporto in 1903. In the former there are 8 resident pupils (2 girls and 6 boys), a blind professor, and 11 out-pupils (3 girls and 8 boys) who have their meals at the school. There are also three journeymen who attend the workshop and receive a salary each month in addition to the product of their work. In the school at Oporto there are 11 resident pupils and from 5 to 8 out-pupils. Without any assistance from the State, Mr. Rodriguez has to depend on private charity for the upkeep of the schools. There is a library consisting of 500 books in Braille, nearly all written out by Mrs. Continho, and by Dr. Curado of Oporto. All the

pupils are taught to read and write Braille, and the school curriculum is similar to that in the English schools. The Music Master at the school at Lisbon is Mr. Léon Jamet, Organist of the Chapel Royal, and an old pupil of the Institution for the Blind at Paris. The Blind of Portugal ought to be deeply grateful to Mr. Branco Rodriguez, and also to Mr. M. Mota, who assists him, for the unceasing activity and zeal shown by them in the great and good work of ameliorating the condition of the Blind.

31. Mr. Moldenhawer, the well-known late Director of the Royal Institution for the Blind at Copenhagen, is going to publish in French an edition of his history of the Institution, and will be glad to receive the names of subscribers. The price will be 2 frs. 50 c. (2/-). Intending purchasers should write direct to Mr. Moldenhawer, at the Institution.

32. The New York State Commission on the Blind, presided over by Dr. Park Lewis, has made its report and recommendations. The creation of a State Board for the Blind, to consist of five members to serve without remuneration, is recommended, in order to take up the question of the causes and the prevention of blindness, and to act generally in the interests of the Blind, by keeping a complete register and establishing an employment Bureau. The Commission has found that one person in every 1,295 in New York State is blind, and estimates that there are 100,000 blind persons in the United States of America. It was ascertained that only two-thirds of those between the ages of 5 and 21 were at school. Special attention is called in the report to the fact that a greater number of persons become blind from purulent ophthalmia and from atrophy of the optic nerve than from any other diseases, and it is stated that of 1,000 blind people, there are only 225 unavoidable cases, 449 possibly avoidable, and 326 absolutely avoidable. The Libraries, Institutions and Societies for the Blind are dealt with in much detail, and it is stated that in California, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, the Institutions for the adult Blind are

maintained wholly by the State. It is estimated that a sum of 40,000 dollars is required to carry out the proposed scheme in its entirety.

33. The Annual Meeting of the Royal Normal College, which was held this year at Grosvenor House, on May 14th, was in every way most successful, and the speeches were far above the average of those at similar meetings. The chair was taken by the Duke of Argyll, who referred to some of the letters printed in the Annual Report, and to the successes obtained by the old students. The 1st Resolution, "That the promoters of the Royal Normal College are justified in asking for such generous support as will place the College on a permanent foundation," was moved by Dr. W. H. Cummings, who testified to the thoroughness of the musical training of the students, and seconded by the Rev. H. J. R. Marston in a masterly speech, which held the audience from beginning to end, and from which we quote the following :—

" This Institution has proved itself able to meet a great and felt public want, and it has met that public want over a long series of years. It has coped with one of the most difficult and intricate of the problems that beset our race, the problem of blindness. Dr. Campbell has helped to solve these problems, he has suffered from them, he has triumphed over them. These problems are in themselves so acute, and so oppressive that not only is it necessary that an Institution should exist which from time to time should spasmodically cope with them, but that it should exist with a permanency of foundation which will give it adequate chance of dealing with these problems from generation to generation. That is the pith and point of the Resolution which I am to second.

Typewriting is a form of occupation admirably adapted to female skill, and I am glad that it is successfully carried on by some of the former pupils of the school. It is another proof of the ubiquity and catholicity of this Institution. The Report makes mention of a young lady who is at the head of an Institution for little children in Armenia, a region of the world

which periodically makes the other countries of Europe and the reins of Government uncomfortable, until they sink back into their normal apathy and indifference. In that land in which so many victims have bled, and bled in vain, one girl from this College is carrying on a noble and useful task in instructing the daughters and sons of Armenia. This is a beautiful and powerful and convincing proof of the way in which the activities of the College are felt in distant parts of the world, and we congratulate Dr. Campbell at Norwood on having contributed something to the amelioration of the woes of Armenia.

You must remember that the great difficulty of all blind education lies in this. It lies in what I may call an adequate understanding of the philosophy of hearing and of touch. In order to develop touch to its finest perfection, in order to cultivate the ear to the finest perfection, the greatest assiduity and the most accomplished teachers of the blind have been at work, at the Normal College. You must understand that the loss of the eye is the loss of the dominant factor in the activities of life. The compensation for that loss to a degree such as has been accomplished at the Normal College is one of those almost miracles of modern Christian philanthropy which happily are so common that we have almost ceased to wonder at their performance. Such is the fact, and we congratulate Dr. Campbell on having devoted his sympathy and powers to the realization of what is meant by the philosophy of hearing and touch in the education of the blind.

Against the blind there is always one initial obstacle, all that they aspire to is barred by an initial want of confidence. To break that down is the steady object of all their friends. What they ask for is this, they ask for a kindly credit and a reasonable trustfulness on the part of the seeing public. They do not ask for what I may call a devout suspicion or a benevolent prejudgment. They ask for a fair field and no favour. They have this to an extent immeasurably above what they had 30 years ago. The great object of a meeting like this is to break down this want of confidence, to pass on to the whole public through the medium of the Press that those who are assembled

here declare that there is no reason why blind boys and girls who are adequately equipped, and therefore justly trustworthy, shall not enter into the competition of life, not without a certain handicap which they cannot lay aside, but without an unnatural and artificial handicap which is put upon them by the suspicion or prejudice of the Christian public. In order to break down this want of confidence this meeting is largely concerned, and we trust it will contribute much to so wholesome and desired a consummation."

The other speakers included Archdeacon Wilberforce, Sir Frederick Treves, Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P., the Lady O'Hagan, etc., and we much regret that there is not sufficient space in our pages to quote from some of these excellent speeches.

INSTITUTIONS.

Birmingham. The 60th annual report, for the year ended March 31st, of the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, was presented at a meeting held on June 25th. It states that 704 blind persons have been benefited, viz.; 182 resident, and 9 day pupils, 80 day-workers, 389 adult Blind, &c. Reference is made to two new occupations, which have been introduced, viz.; weaving and telephony. The sum of £108 has been expended in assisting former pupils to start in life. The turnover in the Trading Department reached the record sum of £10,956. The wages and allowances to the Blind amounted to £3,281, and the total sum paid in salaries, wages, and augmentation to all the Blind employed was £4,201. The adult Blind are well looked after by two blind visitors. A sum of £2,919 was received in legacies.

Bradford. The 46th Annual Report, for 1906, of the Bradford Institution for the Blind, was presented at a meeting held on February 19th. There are 98 blind persons now employed at the Institution. The sales amounted to

£12,165, and the wages and allowances paid to the blind, to £2,377. Reference is made to the Training Home for Men, where they are under the control of the Committee, the Guardians making such grant per head as will defray the cost of maintenance. There are 9 men in the Home, but it accommodates 15. Another blind collector has been appointed. Reference is made to Miss Holloway's death.

Bristol. The 114th Annual Report, for 1906, of the Asylum or School of Industry for the Blind, Queen's Road, Clifton, was presented at the General Meeting held on March 20th, when the Lord Mayor of Bristol took the chair. There are 94 pupils in the School, and 44 workers and out-pupils. Reference is made to the purchase of the site for the new building at Westbury-on-Trym, and also to the amalgamation with the Association in Park Street for the Industrial Employment of Blind Women. The sales amounted to £2,403, and £723 were paid to the Blind in wages and supplements thereto.

Cardiff. The 42nd Annual Report, for 1906, of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind, was presented at a meeting held on March 19th, and shows that the sales amounted to £2,758, of which sum £1,802 came from sales of baskets. £763 were paid in wages to the Blind. The assured income is only £27 a year, and an effort is being made to create an endowment fund of £2,000, Lord Tredegar and Mr. W. J. Tatem having given 250 guineas each. There are 31 blind men and 8 blind women employed at the Institute.

Dundee. The 38th Annual Report of the Dundee Institution for the Blind, for the year ended March 31st last, shows that at the close of the year there were 96 inmates, of whom 74 were in the industrial, and 22 in the educational department. The sales amounted to £8,763, and the wages paid to blind workers to £1,996. A sum of £193 was paid in addition to supplement the wages, etc. There is a Boarding House with 6 adult women and 15 children in residence. Reference is made to the opening of the new gymnasium and additional class-rooms.

Greenwich. The annual report for 1906 of the Workshop for the Blind of Kent, 49, London Street, Greenwich, S.E., states that 20 blind men have been employed, who received £658 in wages. The sales amounted to £1,361. A depôt started at Blackheath had to be given up after six months trial.

Hull. The 43rd annual meeting of the Hull Blind Institution was held on May 8th, when the report for 1906 was presented. There are 203 blind persons on the register, of whom 27 (20 males and 7 females) are working at the Institution, and 9 are inmates of the Home for Women. The sales amounted to £1,884. There is a Sick Benefit and Entertainment Fund, and Departments for Home Teaching and Library for Typewriting.

Liverpool. (a) In the report of the Workshops for the Blind, Cornwallis Street, Liverpool, for the year 1906, it is stated that 125 blind persons have been employed, to whom £4,062 have been paid in wages. The sales amounted to £19,856. An effort is being made to raise £15,000, of which sum half has already been promised, in order to erect and thoroughly equip a modern factory on a convenient site already purchased, and to remodel the old building. There is an annuity fund which benefited 12 blind persons to the amount of £128 in the aggregate. The sick fund, managed by the blind workpeople, disbursed £77 in relief. The Home Teaching branch was carried on as usual, and 5,193 visits paid.

(b) The 116th report of the School at Hardman Street, and the Branch School for Children at Wavertree, Liverpool, for 1906, shows that at the end of the year there were 56 male and 41 female pupils. The fees for future pupils have been raised. The shoemaking industry has proved very successful. A sum of £147 was granted to pupils out of the "Old Pupils' Fund."

London. The 1st annual report for 16 months ended March 31st, 1907, of the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, 246, Edgware Road, W., states that the Committee have decided to do weaving only and to admit only girls from the Barclay Home at Brighton. There are only 4 workers at present,

2 having left. They receive 7/- a week in wages, which is supplemented up to 10/-. The sales amounted to £57 and £80 were paid in wages.

Manchester. (a) The 67th Annual Meeting of Henshaw's Blind Asylum was held on February 16th, when the report for the year ended December 31st, 1906, was adopted. On January 1st last there were 188 inmates. There are 50 boys and 41 girls in the school. £848 were granted to outside blind persons. The deficiency on the Outdoor Workshops, where 44 men have been continuously employed, was £785. The sales amounted to £6,822. H. Harrop gained an exhibition of £15, tenable for two years, under the Lancashire County Council, and George Hilditch passed the examination of the Incorporated Society of Musicians with honours, for proficiency as a pianist.

(b) The annual meeting of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society was held on February 21st, when the 7th report for 1906 was adopted. The Central Rooms in Artillery Street are the busy centre of the life of this comprehensive Society consisting of a Braille Library with 1,645 vols., an Industrial Branch where 7 blind men are employed, and the sales amounted to £1,461, Braille Writing and Home teaching branch, where 21 blind workers received £236 in wages, Bookbinding is carried on by 2 blind men, who bound over 400 books, Woolwork, which gave employment to 19 women and 1 man, a Sick and Benefit Branch, a Home for Blind Women, the Home of Rest at Southport, where there have been 250 guests during 1906, and a Prayer Union with 54 members. There are 2 blind collectors.

Nottingham. The 63rd annual report of the Midland Institution for the Blind, for the year ended March 31st, was presented at a meeting held on June 12th, presided over by Lord Algernon Percy. The pupils receiving technical instruction number 58, and the out-workers 37. The sales amounted to £7,398, and the legacies to £1,369. Reference is made to the completion of the new buildings at a cost of upwards of £12,000, of which sum only £4,028 has been raised as yet. A

grant of £151 was received in respect of the instruction given in the day Technical Classes and Evening Continuation School, as the Institution is now recognised as a "Technical Institution" by the Board of Education. Reference is made to the City and County Meeting, already described in these pages (January number), and also to the one held last month at Derby.

Oldham. The 23rd report, for 1906, of the Workshops for the Blind at Oldham, was adopted at a meeting held on February 14th. There are 23 blind persons employed. The sales amounted to £3,715. There are 10 pupils attending the Evening Class.

Reading. The 14th Annual Report, for 1906, of the Reading Blind Aid Society, shows that the Adult Blind, born in, or resident for seven years within the Borough, have been assisted by means of grants of coal, clothing and money, and are visited in their own homes. The sum of £236 was distributed in weekly, monthly, or quarterly grants, and £7 10s. was expended in coals, provisions and clothing.

Sheffield. The annual meeting of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind was held on March 8th, when the 28th report for 1906 was approved. There is a School with 35 boys and 35 girls, a Workshop, a Home Mission, and the Cottages for the Aged Blind. The new Workshops were opened in April, 1906, and substantial assistance has been given by the Local Education Authority under certain conditions. There are 45 blind persons, viz: 28 men, 10 women, and 7 learners, employed at the Workshops, who received £787 in wages and a bonus of £143.

Wakefield. The annual meeting of the Wakefield and District Societies for the Blind was held on January 28th, when the 6th report for 1906 was adopted. There are 111 blind persons on the list. Five men and two girls are employed in the Workshops, and one woman at her own home. The wages amounted to £109, and the sales to £244. There is a Sick and Benefit Branch.

Wolverhampton. The Society for the Blind held its Annual Meeting on June 5th, when the 32nd Report for 1906 was presented. There are 195 blind persons in the district, who are visited by a blind teacher. There is a Sick Benefit Society, and £16 were paid to sick and aged from the Horsman Fund. There are 19 men and 5 women employed in the Workshop. The sales amounted to £1,256, and £456 were paid to the blind workpeople.

NORTH OF ENGLAND UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES, AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

CONFERENCE IN YORK, 15th MAY, 1907.

Readers of "The Blind" would learn from the last number of this Quarterly publication something as to the objects and formation of this Union of the six Northern Counties of England on behalf of the Blind, whose First Annual Congress was held at the Yorkshire School for the Blind, the King's Manor, York, on Wednesday, 15th May.

At this Conference the Archbishop of York (President of the Union) took the chair during the morning session, and was supported by Mr. Fredk. J. Munby (Chairman of the Committee) and a large number of representatives of the Union, with members and officials of Education and Health Authorities, and other friends of the Blind.

Owing to the large attendance, the Conference Meetings were held in the Central Hall of the Exhibition Buildings, adjoining the Yorkshire School for the Blind.

The Rev. W. G. Pennyman (Vicar of Bishopthorpe) having opened the Conference with prayer, Miss Isabel Heywood (Hon. Secretary) spoke of her great pleasure in presenting the First Report of the North of England Union of Institutions, Societies,

and Agencies for the Blind, pointing out how this Union had grown from very small beginnings out of the Edinburgh Conference of 1905. They had now, however, the Archbishop of York as President, and five Lords Lieutenant from the six Northern Counties as Vice-Presidents.

Thanks to the help of Captain Metcalfe, Chief Constable of the West Riding, and other heads of the Police Force, they had information as to the names and circumstances of all the Blind outside the towns and cities of the six Northern Counties, and they had been enabled to form a correct register. Twenty-six Societies and Institutions were connected with the Union, and all the Northern Counties were represented; and it was hoped and believed that the work of the Union would strengthen all the Societies which were members of it, and help them to realise a great need which at present they could not adequately meet.

The Archbishop of York expressed his heartfelt thanks to Miss Heywood, not only for her presence, but for the work she had been carrying on in preparation for that day, and for the manner in which she had pointed out the purpose and character of the movement. She said that the desire of the Union was that no blind person in the North should be left uncared for, and that was a noble scope to give to their work. Miss Heywood told them that there seemed to be an enthusiasm for the cause, and he hoped this delightful "disease" would be very catching. Amongst the sufferers of the great human family there were scarcely any who so deeply touched their feelings and awakened their sympathy as the Blind. What was needed was that this sympathy should be more wisely directed and more practically exercised, and the object of the present Conference was to secure this desirable end.

Dr. Hartley (Leeds), in his paper on "The Prevention of Blindness in early infancy and the Care of Blind Children up to five years of age," stated that the first and greatest cause of blindness in early infancy was purulent ophthalmia. He pointed out that the children of the future would have a very much better chance of escaping this affliction, due, as was now recognised, to a poisonous microbe which was only harmful when alive, and

which could be destroyed rapidly and safely by the use of a well-known remedy. There were reasons for encouragement in the vigour with which the battle against infectious disease of all kinds was being fought at the present day, and also in the immense revolution in the surgical treatment of wounds and inflammatory processes of all kinds. The Midwives Registration Act had also brought about a great reform. Dr. Hartley strongly advocated the compulsory notification of this acutely dangerous and infectious disease—purulent ophthalmia—and urged the compulsory registration of every case of this disease, and indeed of every case of known blindness in infants.

Mr. W. H. Illingworth (Henshaw's Asylum for the Blind, Manchester), in opening the discussion on this subject, spoke of the large number of bright, healthy children who lost their sight simply through the neglect of their parents. They were told that nearly 40% of blind children of school age lost their sight for want of a little care and a few drops of a chemical solution. They could not lay too much stress on the horror of it. A good deal was heard about State aid for the Blind, but State prevention of blindness would be far better.

Mr. W. Draper (Medical Officer of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, York), supported and emphasised what Dr. Hartley had said in his interesting and instructive paper. He pointed out that in the rules framed by the Central Midwives Board, under section 3 (1) of the Midwives Act, 1902, it was laid down in section E, rule 14, that antiseptic treatment "should" be carefully carried out as soon as the child was born, and, if possible, before the eyes were opened. This was an important rule, but required altering by the substitution of the word "shall" for "should."

Dr. P. Macdonald (York), was of opinion that the optimism of Dr. Hartley was borne out by his own experience in Berlin. He was informed there that the care of children's eyes was so strict and complete that there was very little purulent ophthalmia to treat in that city.

Mr. W. J. Day (Blackburn), Mr. T. Taylor (Liverpool), and

Mr. W. H. Tate (Bradford), also made valuable contributions to the discussion on this subject.

The Conference was resumed in the afternoon, with Mr. Fredk. J. Munby (Chairman of Committee) presiding.

Mr. Walter Stevenson (Secretary of the Accrington Institution for the Blind), read a paper on "The After Care of Pupils leaving Institutions and Schools." This subject was ably dealt with, and at considerable length. It was stated that out of 8,205 blind people in the area of the Union, only 649 were in workshops. The provision of workshops in new centres and the finding, if possible, of new employments for the Blind, were advocated.

Mr. W. Robertson (Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Newcastle-on-Tyne) spoke of the importance of the subject and the need for united effort. He had never advocated the establishment of a Central Bureau, but rather favoured the formation of Unions, such as their own, the areas of which were quite large enough. In the case of Newcastle he was glad to say that the Education Authorities of Northumberland and Durham had never refused an application for extension of training in the case of pupils over 16 years of age.

The Rev. St. Clare Hill (School for the Blind, Leatherhead) felt that they could attain their end better by doing their work in sections, rather than by attempting to do it as a whole. They had a big problem before them, but they could comfort themselves with the thought that they had done something towards solving it, and had ample encouragement to proceed. With reference to that considerable class of the Blind unable to do anything, the best treatment was to provide for them in Homes, in which they could be given some employment with which to occupy their time. He did not believe so much in many workshops as in more workshops of a larger kind, and advocated the establishment of a Pension Society, from which those who were earning an honest but meagre living might supplement their earnings.

Dr. Eichholz (H.M.I. Board of Education), offered the congratulations of the Board to the Union, and wished it every

success. Under the Act of 1902 he explained that it was possible for a Local Education Authority to support pupils beyond the age of 16, practically until the age of 21. The Board of Education offered every encouragement to Institutions and Local Authorities to deal with pupils in this way. All they asked for was a suitable scheme of work. The duty of the Union then was to leaven public opinion by stimulating Local Authorities to exercise their powers under Part II. of the Education Act of 1902. The Board of Education was prepared to offer a substantial grant for classes conducted in workshops, provided that the teaching was progressive and that the pupils were not engaged on merely routine employments as long as they were earning these grants. Under these conditions any of the employments taught in Workshops for the Blind would be recognised by the Board as suitable technical employment. At the Nottingham Institution there was already a scheme of this kind in full swing, and schemes for Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester and Birmingham were being considered. He looked for a large development on these lines in the next few years, and hoped that they would not think their work of training was over when they had simply taught the Blind to make things. There was the rest of their culture to be thought of, including literature and music.

Mr. Day (Blackburn), Mr. Priestley (Bradford), Mr. Taylor (Liverpool), Mr. Illingworth (Manchester), Mr. Tate (Bradford), Mr. Pine (Nottingham), also took part in this discussion.

Miss Edith Wright (Organising Secretary) here read her paper on "How to form Societies in places where there are none, including the Care of the Sick and Aged." It was generally felt by the members of the Conference that this question—which must of necessity form an important part of the Union's immediate work—had been dealt with by Miss Wright in quite a unique way. As a full account of the Conference proceedings will be published shortly, and as it would be difficult to properly summarise Miss Wright's admirable paper, it is suggested that those interested in this subject procure a Conference Report, which may be obtained from the Yorkshire School for the Blind, York, post free 1/1.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. H. von Niederhausern, the discussion was opened by Mr. Councillor Warner (Bradford), who congratulated Miss Wright on her very able address, and said that, if they had searched the whole of the Northern Counties, they could not have found anyone who would put more enthusiasm into the work than she had done.

Mr. James Townson (Accrington) made some practical suggestions as the result of his experience in this work.

The Rev. N. F. McNeile (the Blind Vicar of Brafferton) spoke of his great interest in the work undertaken by the Union, but ventured to deprecate as far as possible the obtaining of State aid. It might be a necessity, but he hoped it would be the last resort, because the moment they got State aid they took away the grace of philanthropy.

The Conference closed with prayer offered by the last speaker.

On the invitation of the Committee of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, the members of the Conference then adjourned to the King's Manor House, and partook of tea and light refreshment, the pupils of the School entertaining them with an excellent display of physical drill and some beautiful out-door glee singing.

A. B. NORWOOD.

*Superintendent of the Yorkshire School
for the Blind.*

THE EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE BLIND IN SCOTLAND.

The Editor of "The Blind" having asked me to write an article for that useful and interesting Magazine, on the work of the Scotch Institutions for the Blind, I have pleasure in acceding to his request. It seems to me that the information desiderated can be better imparted in a series of short sketches on the several Institutions than by treating the subject in a

general way. I have, therefore, collected particulars regarding each, including its origin, progress, and present position, which I hope will prove interesting, and these I have prefaced by a few general observations on the subject in its educational and industrial aspects.

EDUCATIONAL.

By universal consent the credit of having organised the first School for the training of the Blind belongs to Valentin Haüy of Paris, who, in 1785, founded a School in that city. The impulse of the movement instituted by him resulted in the general establishment of schools all over the civilised world, and the first Institution in Scotland was opened in 1793. Numerous attempts had been made to educate the blind, and the methods and appliances used for the purpose were varied and ingenious. The invention of printing in relief, however, superseded all methods previously devised for making letters palpable to the touch, and embossed writing became generally adopted. The signs and characters employed were of many kinds, from the ordinary Roman letters to curves, angles, and dots. Eventually the dot system invented by M. Braille in 1829 (and which bears his name), was approved by Experts, and its adoption has since become almost universal.

The first book in the English language printed in relief was produced by Mr. James Gall, of Edinburgh, in 1827, and gave a fresh impulse to the education of the class. Another Scotchman, Mr. Alston, of Glasgow, was the first to issue a complete copy of the Bible in embossed ordinary Roman characters. This monumental work was recognised by the Government of the day, who voted from the National Treasury a sum of £400 towards the expense of its publication. The interest created by the numerous alphabetic systems suggested for adoption attracted increased public attention to the Blind. Efforts for their education became general, and in course of time schools were established for giving systematic teaching. Edinburgh and Glasgow were in the forefront in this direction and gradually smaller centres took up the work.

The education of the Blind in Scotland as presently conducted under the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Act, 1891), embraces all the most scientific and approved methods of instruction, and has attained the highest standard of efficiency. The Schools in Edinburgh and Glasgow are on a very large scale, the buildings, recreation grounds, apparatus and equipment affording opportunity for attaining the best educational results possible.

The curriculum comprises ENGLISH in all its branches, including typewriting and shorthand, kindergarten work, technical instruction. MUSIC, including organ, pianoforte, violin, and PHYSICAL TRAINING is given in well appointed Gymnasia. Most of the Institutions have a Library attached, some of them embracing many classical and standard works in Braille. In the Edinburgh school at West Craigmillar a Braille Printing Press has been for many years in operation, and has issued for the use of its own pupils and other schools throughout the kingdom, numerous educational and other works. It also publishes in Braille the magazines, "Hora Jucunda" and "The Craigmillar Harp."

Glasgow is numerically the largest school, having 86 children under instruction. Edinburgh comes next with 54 pupils, and Dundee with 23. All the Schools are now under Government inspection, and gratifying reports are received from time to time from H.M. Inspectors as to the efficiency of the work, and the unusually high standard of intelligence attained by the average blind scholar.

INDUSTRIAL.

Scotland still maintains a foremost place amongst industrial workshops for the blind, and was the first to recognise that the class could be trained in handicraft and made capable of useful employment. The first Institution was opened in Edinburgh, in 1793. Dr. Howe, of America, in visiting Scotland, in 1833, wrote: "The Edinburgh Institution is the best I saw in Europe, and comes nearest the attainment of the object of such Institutions, viz., enabling the blind to support themselves by their own efforts."

The effort then initiated has been productive of most beneficial results, workshops on similar lines having gradually sprung up all over the world. In Scotland, five other Institutions have since been established, that of Glasgow outstripping the parent one, and doing, perhaps, the largest trade of any Institution of the kind in the world. The smaller ones are, each in their respective districts, doing excellent work, and diminishing the ranks of the unemployed blind who are willing to work. It is claimed by some of them that all the blind capable of industrial training in their districts are being dealt with, although in the great centres of population, notably Glasgow and Edinburgh, a good many blind persons anxious for employment cannot be admitted to the local workshops, owing to lack of accommodation or to other causes.

The centralisation in Institutions of *all* the Blind capable of employment has been suggested on the ground of efficiency and economy, but considering the area over which many of them are scattered this is manifestly impossible, nor would it be desirable. In the case of many blind persons living at a great distance from a workshop for the Blind, the local conditions in their several districts are generally such that suitable occupation of some kind may be found for those who are able and willing to work. This is a feature of the work of "Missions for the Blind" in Scotland, whose operations, extending all over the country, have resulted in procuring various forms of employment which could not possibly be carried on in connection with Industrial Institutions.

The trading capacity of the Scotch Institutions is represented by their combined annual average turnover, which has reached the considerable total of £64,000, whilst the blind workers employed receive in wages, supplement, and other allowances annually the sum of over £20,000.

Contributing largely to this result has been the system gradually developed and now freely employed in all the Institutions, viz., that of trading in products not made by the blind, but kindred with those manufactured by them. The variety of work produced by the blind operatives, especially in the earlier stages,

in the development of workshops was necessarily limited, and customers who would willingly bestow their patronage, preferably on Institutions, were often disappointed that their requirements in the various branches of work carried on could only be partially furnished. This led to the general adoption of trading in "bought in goods," which has been a great success, securing the double desideratum of satisfying customers and increasing the business of the Institutions.

It must be acknowledged that the activities of all the blind in Scotland are not confined within the walls of Institutions. Many of them are making an effort after an honourable and independent subsistence by suitable work provided in their own immediate surroundings, whilst not a few, by enterprise and courage have entered on business on their own account in a variety of undertakings, and are fighting manfully life's battle.

It is probable, too, that all the blind capable of industrial training have not yet been overtaken. To emancipate such from their inactivity and consequent condition of depression and dependence, it is felt that public charity and philanthropy must be supplemented in some way by a State measure, which would secure a provision of employment and adequate remuneration for every blind person able and willing to work.

That our Scotch Institutions have been enabled to carry on their work with so great a measure of success in the past has been due to the liberal patronage and philanthropy of the public, and it is confidently believed that, as the claims and needs of the class become better known, a fuller and even more generous support will be accorded to them in the future.

ABERDEEN ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, Founded 1818.

Objects:—"A resident School to provide instruction in ordinary branches of Education for blind children, to teach trades, and to provide workshops." Departments—Basket Making, Mat Making, Mattings, Netting, Twine, Mattress Making. Wages, etc., to Blind and Sighted (1906) £2,947 6 2. Sales £7,031. Number employed in Industrial Department, 64.

The School was discontinued on 9th August, 1904, and blind children are now being taught in the Board Schools.

DUNDEE INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

In 1840 a Fund existed in Dundee the proceeds of which were applied in providing Annuities for blind people and Education for a few blind children. It was not, however, till 1865 that the industrial training and education of the blind took organised shape. In that year, through the munificence of the late Francis Molison, a valuable property was put at the disposal of a Committee who converted it into workshops and a School. The Founder interested himself in its establishment and contributed liberally to its equipment with the necessary plant and appliances. So great was the success of the enterprise, that in a few years the premises became too small for the rapidly extending business carried on, and an increasing number of blind persons availed themselves of the Institution. This fact was made known to Mrs. Molison, the widow of the Founder, who determined to present new premises to the Directors. The site on which the large and flourishing Institution at Magdalen Green now stands was purchased by her and the buildings erected thereon, the total cost of which amounted to over £10,000. The new Institution was formally handed over to the Directors by Sir William Ogilvy Dalgleish, Bart., (son-in-law of the Founder) President of the Institution on 15th January, 1885.

The objects of the Institution are two fold.

- (1) To give education and industrial training to the juvenile blind.
- (2) To provide employment for adult blind persons and supplement their earnings from the Charitable funds to such an extent as will put them beyond the necessity of applying for parochial relief.

Its operations are largely confined to the counties of Forfar, Perth, and Fife. Over 250 persons have participated in its benefits, and at present the roll stands at over 100.

The industries carried on are :

Basket and brush making, and chair caning.

Upholstery work and bedding making.

Feather cleaning and purifying.

Mat and ship's fender making.

Wood chopping and bundling, and fire lighter making.

The average Annual Sales amount to £8,500, the wages and allowances to the blind operatives in the Industrial Department to £2190. The education of blind children forms an important part of the work of the Institution. The School, Technical workshops, and Gymnasium are equipped with the most modern apparatus for successful instruction. Music is taught in all its branches, and pupils are trained as teachers of music, organists and piano tuners.

There is a commodious Boarding House attached to the School where pupils coming from country districts reside.

EDINBURGH. THE ROYAL BLIND ASYLUM AND SCHOOL.

The Institution now known as the Royal Blind Asylum and School had its origin in 1793, and is an amalgamation of three Institutions, viz: (1) The Society for the Industrious Blind, founded in Edinburgh in 1793, by the Rev. Dr. Johnston, of North Leith; (2) The Home for the Female Blind, established in 1822; and (3) The School for Blind Children in Gayfield Square, Edinburgh, instituted in 1835, by James Gall. The original Institution — The Society for the Industrious Blind — was first of all amalgamated with the Home for the Female Blind, when the combined Institution became known as the Blind Asylum, or the Asylum for the Industrious Blind, and in 1872, by the gracious permission and authority of her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, who in many ways had always shown her deep and practical interest in the Institution, the name was changed to the Royal Blind Asylum. In 1876, the School for Blind Children in Gayfield Square was amalgamated with the Royal Blind Asylum, and the Institution was thereafter designated The Royal Blind Asylum and School; and in 1898, The Royal Blind Asylum and School was incorporated under that name by Royal Charter.

The Society for the Industrious Blind originally acquired property (in 1806) on the site still occupied by the Industrial part of the Institution, and there erected premises which have since been demolished to make room for more commodious buildings. Subsequently, from time to time, the Institution

acquired by purchase further property adjoining, so as to enlarge the premises to meet the requirements of extended business.

The work of the Institution is carried on in two divisions—one, the Industrial Department in Nicolson Street and Richmond Place, where work is provided for blind men, women and boys in the manufacture of baskets, brushes, mattresses, mats and other similar occupations, and where a warehouse and shop are located for the sale of the articles manufactured; and the other, the Asylum and School at West Craigmillar, where there are provided (*a*) a home for poor blind women, (*b*) a school for blind children, and (*c*) a department where the blind are taught music, piano tuning, printing, typewriting, etc.

Since the origin of the Institution in 1793, about 1,100 inmates have enjoyed its benefits. At present there are about 280 inmates and 140 Outdoor Pensioners.

The occupations engaged in are—by males, basket making, brush making, weaving, cork-fender making, feather cleaning, firewood chopping and bunching, mat making, mattress making, palliasse making, upholstery work; and by females, sewing, knitting, crochet work, bead work, chair caning, etc., and a few males are employed in connection with piano tuning, stereotyping, bookbinding and printing. There are also one male and three females employed at teaching.

The turnover in the Trading Department is about £18,000 annually.

About £7,700 was paid last year to the Inmates in the form of wages, gratuities, sick allowances and medicine, holidays, clothing, etc., and £500 paid to Outdoor Pensioners.

ROYAL GLASGOW ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

Mr. John Leitch, who died in 1804, bequeathed the sum of £5,000 for the purpose of founding an "Asylum for the Blind." The Institution was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1825, and its beneficent work was commenced in 1826. During the year 1828 twenty blind persons were enjoying the benefits of the Charity. The sales of manufactured goods amounted in that year to £231. The first complete copy of the Bible in Alston's

type for the use of the Blind was printed in this Institution in 1841, and presented to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria.

The Institution is now in the eighty-second year of its existence. Its objects are:—(1) To provide a school of general instruction for the young Blind who are lodged in the residential department, and who receive education and tuition in employments suited to their sex, capacity and inclination; (2) the school also receives day pupils who reside at their own homes, providing them with free education, including instruction in music; (3) to afford an opportunity of acquiring a trade, and to provide employment for adult blind persons, whereby they may be enabled to contribute to their own support; (4) to afford a home for indigent blind women; and (5) to provide retiring allowances for non-resident blind men who have become too feeble to follow their occupations.

Nearly 300 blind persons are presently participating in the benefits of the Institution, and the sum of £7,072 17s. 10d. was dispensed last year in the form of (1) wages, (2) grants for clothing and to cover loss of time during sickness and holidays, and (3) retiring allowances to aged and infirm blind workmen. The sales during the past three years averaged £28,585. The departments are: Baskets, Bedding, Brushes, Carpentry, Mats, Sacks and Sacking Twines, Wire-working. Blind girls operate Singer's Sewing Machines propelled by motor power, and power driven machinery in the Carpentry department is employed by blind workmen.

With the completion of the re-construction of the older portion of the Institution, machinery of the most modern and approved type and driven by electric power, has been introduced into the Bedding department. The Managers have in contemplation the establishment of a Home and Sanitorium, in which the blind children, and inmates who are constitutionally delicate, could spend an occasional holiday.

INVERNESS. NORTHERN COUNTIES INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

Founded 1867. Prior to the establishment of a school and workshops there existed in Inverness a Society for teaching the

Blind to read, which is now amalgamated under the above designation. Its operations are carried on in the Northern Counties including Inverness, Nairn, Moray, Caithness, Sutherland, and Ross. There are 13 pupils in the Educational Home, and 17 blind men in the Industrial department. Sales (1906) £968 8s.; wages and supplement £176.

PAISLEY AND DISTRICT WORKSHOPS.

Established in 1903 to teach trades and provide work for industrious blind men and women. Nine workers employed. Sales (1906) £424 7s. 3d.; wages paid (1906) £325 5s. 8d.

It will be observed from the foregoing sketches that the industries carried on are very much the same in all the Institutions. Experts have found, after long experience, that the trades enumerated are best adapted for the class and give a better return to the worker than many new industries that have been suggested. The various methods adopted in the conduct of the departments, the rates of wages paid to the blind operatives, and the systems of administration have not been touched on, but we believe that any information desired on these points will be readily furnished by the management of the respective Institutions.

COLIN MACDONALD, *Manager*,
INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, DUNDEE.

NOTE.—The names of the Managers of the above-mentioned Institutions are :—

Aberdeen...	...	...	Mr. WM. MESTON
Dundee ...	...	...	Mr. COLIN MACDONALD
Edinburgh	...	...	MR. GEORGE STOTT
Glasgow ...	...	...	Mr. THOMAS STODDART
Inverness...	...	...	Mr. DON. MACGREGOR
Paisley ...	...	...	Mr. JAMES PEDDIE

The Blind.

VOL. II.

No. 40.

OCTOBER, 19TH, 1907.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

With the issue of this number, the second five years of publication of "The Blind" terminate, and, therefore, an Index of the contents during that period, together with a title page for Vol. II., is forwarded herewith as a supplement. Most of the numbers in Vol. II. can be obtained from the Editor, if required to complete the volume. We note that 378 pages, exclusive of Index, were given to our readers in the first volume, whereas in the second volume, no less than 566 pages have been printed, thus providing an additional 188 pages.

In the current number we give an excellent article on "The Societies and Missions for the Blind in Scotland," by Mr. J. Frew Bryden, the well-known Superintendent of the Mission to the Out-Door Blind for Glasgow and the West of Scotland. These Societies are supplementary and additional to the work carried on at the Institutions, so clearly described by Mr. Colin Macdonald in our last number, and thus fill a very important and necessary sphere. These two articles, both written by experts, give a very full and complete history of what is being done for the Blind in Scotland at the present time.

Subscriptions for "The Blind" during 1908, 1½ post free, for the four numbers should be sent to the Editor as soon as convenient, but not later than December 14th.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. The Rev. A. J. Dexter, formerly of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, took his M.A. degree at Oxford on August 6th.

2. We heartily congratulate two students from the Royal Normal College, viz., Mr. James Crowley, on obtaining his diploma as a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, and also Mr. Victor Spanner on obtaining an A.R.C.O., and the Cart prize. There were 224 candidates, and the highest number of marks was obtained by Mr. Spanner, who is the first blind person to gain this prize. On presenting the diplomas, Sir Walter Parratt shook hands with Mr. Spanner and said: "I think the greatest honour belongs to this candidate, who has had to get through this difficult examination without our advantage of sight, and I heartily congratulate him upon being the winner of the Cart Prize."

3. Mr. F. W. Priest, F.R.C.O., formerly a student of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, had the honour of giving the free Organ Recital at the Town Hall, Birmingham, on August 31st. His programme included Pastoral in D, by himself, Andante in D, by Mr. Hollins, and Bach's Prelude and Fugue in G.

4. Mr. H. G. Oke, A.R.A.M., has been appointed organist at St. Augustin's Church, Margate, and entered on his duties October 6th. Mr. Oke was educated at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, and obtained 2 bronze and 3 silver medals at the Royal Academy of Music.

5. We congratulate Capt. Peirson Webber on having obtained a certificate from University College, Reading, as having passed the most comprehensive course of practical and scientific instruction in poultry culture. Captain Webber gave a series of demonstrations and lectures in economic methods of

poultry management at the Warwickshire County Agricultural Show, on August 28th and 29th, and is giving about thirty lectures and demonstrations at rural centres, as poultry expert for Warwickshire. He has also been invited to address a meeting of the Northamptonshire Chamber of Agriculture.

6. At the meeting of the Staffordshire County Education Committee, on July 13th, a Scholarship of £60 a year, tenable at the Royal Normal College, was granted to Herbert Morgan, of Stafford, who at that date was a pupil at the School for the Blind, Stoke-on-Trent.

7. Miss Mabel Lungley, a student of the Royal Normal College, has been appointed typist and shorthand writer in a London firm. She obtained a certificate in recognition of good all-round work just before leaving the College.

8. A certificated Mistress, who has recently become blind, is anxious to obtain a post as governess in a school or family. She understands Braille, and has good references and testimonials. Address: Miss Hamer, Godfrey Erwen Home, Roe Lane, Southport.

9. A presentation has been made to the Rev. A. Tansey, on leaving Haddlesey, for his new sphere of work at Whitley Bridge, Yorkshire. Reference was made to his great gift, as a preacher, and to the fact that he had established a reading room in the parish, besides adding considerably to the library. Mr. Tansey, who is quite blind, was always a welcome visitor in the homes of the sick and poor, and the testimonial showed how much his services were appreciated in the parish.

10. We much regret to have to announce the death of Miss Prosser, on July 19th, two days after an operation. Miss Prosser was Superintendent of the Phoenix Home for Blind Women, and much beloved and respected by the inmates. Miss Frendenthal has been appointed in her place.

11. Our readers will hear with sincere regret that Mr. Alfred Hirst has had to leave Whitby on account of his extreme ill health. For more than twelve years he has devoted himself to bettering the condition of the Blind in that town, until at the present time every child of school age has been sent to the Yorkshire School for the Blind, 2 women have been sent to the Home at Scarborough, 3 basket makers have been kept in full work, and every old and infirm blind person has been provided with a pension. It was Mr. Hirst who founded the Whitby Trust, often referred to in these pages, and with his usual foresight and anxious care for the Blind, he called together a meeting of friends of the Blind for October 5th, in order to appoint a Committee to carry on his beneficent work. The Chair was taken by the Marquis of Normanby. The Blind of Whitby, whom Mr. Hirst has befriended and assisted largely out of his private means, can alone realise what a loss the town has sustained by his departure, and what a blank there will be without his presence and ever ready sympathetic counsel.

12. Mr. J. W. Lawson has been invited by the Queen of Roumania to go to her settlement for the Blind to teach carpentry, and especially cabinet-making, and has accepted the invitation. Mr. Lawson is quite blind and was a pianoforte tuner at Armley, taking up cabinet-making for a pastime. The Queen of Roumania heard of his work and asked him to make something for her. He made an exquisite mahogany drawing-room table, inlaid with a satinwood border and an elaborate design in the centre, and the Queen wrote to inform him that she had placed it in her principal drawing-room, and ordered another. Subsequently, as already stated, she asked him to go to Roumania, and he left England last month.

13. Mr. D. Cross, 56, Durnford Street, Stonehouse, Plymouth, to whom we had the pleasure of paying a visit last month, has become the inventor and manufacturer of cork specialities since he lost his sight a few years ago. Cross's patent sanitary cork mat can be used wherever a mat is required,

for the door, hall, carriage, bath room, bedroom, etc., it has a smooth surface, retains no water, is warm and light, clean and sanitary, costs less and wears longer than the ordinary mats. Cross's patent cork knife board is also said to excel all other kinds in efficiency, cleanliness and economy.

14. A circular letter was sent on August 15th, to the Secretaries of all the Institutions for the Blind informing them that a College of Teachers of the Blind had been formed for the purpose of issuing diplomas to teachers of the Blind, and asking the Committees of the Institutions to nominate an expert to represent them on the Council. We much hope that the Institutions may be unanimous in support of this new, but necessary and important departure. The Hon. Sec. is Mr. W. P. E. Barnes, and the office is c/o British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

15. Our readers, especially those connected with Institutions for the Blind, will be interested to know that by the Education (Administrative Provision) Act, 1907, section 9, the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893, has been amended in regard to the compulsory raising of not less than one-third of the annual expenses. The section runs as follows: "The condition that the annual expenses of the maintenance of a school not managed by a school authority are, to the extent of not less than one-third, to be defrayed out of sources other than local rates or moneys provided by Parliament, shall cease to be a condition required for the grant of a certificate under section seven of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893, to such a school as a school suitable for providing elementary education for blind or deaf children." The Board of Education has issued "regulations applicable to schools for blind, deaf, defective and epileptic children," and on page 13, section 18, it is stated that one-third of the annual expenses must be defrayed out of sources other than local rates or monies provided by Parliament; but we presume that the Act above referred to, rescinds this regulation,

which was drawn up previous to the passing of the Act. The special regulations do not seem to introduce any new questions, but "are, in the main, changes of arrangement rather than of substance."

16. A new magazine for children, printed in contracted Braille, with a few pages in Grade i., for the little ones, appeared on October 5th. It is called "Golden Sunbeams," and consists of stories, etc., extracted from a magazine of the same name issued by the Sunbeam Mission. The magazines will be published on the 5th of each month, price 3d. (by post 4d.) each number, and can be obtained at the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

17. The new Catalogue of the "Braille" department of the Oxford Free Library has just been printed, and can be obtained, price 3d., from the Librarian, Municipal Buildings, Oxford. The books can be borrowed only by students, past or present.

18. Swedish weaving has been started at the School for the Blind at Bristol, and a teacher has been engaged, who was taught weaving, and to use the automatic knitting machine, at the Midland Institution for the Blind. At this Institution also a former pupil at Henshaw's Blind Asylum is being taught weaving with the object of introducing it there.

19. The Rev. T. Barnard, Principal of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, has printed in Braille a number of hymns, each on a separate sheet, suitable to hold in the hands, and he will be happy to supply them at 4d. per dozen, or ½d. per single copy, and also to print hymns to order in a similar way.

20. The embossed cards for Christmas and the New Year are exceptionally well got up this year, and are of a varied kind. Miss Moon has produced some very attractive ones with the usual greeting in Moon's type, which can be obtained at 104,

Queen's Road, Brighton. There are two different kinds at 3d. and 4d. each, and three at 6d. each, and will be much appreciated by aged blind persons who read Moon's type.

Miss C. H. Cather has provided in an excellent way for Braille Esperantists, by issuing a card with the words, "That your Christmas may be very joyful is my sincere desire," and a Calendar, with the words of the poem "L'Espero" below the monthly dates. Also a blue booklet, which contains extracts from Dr. Zamenhof's translation of Ecclesiastes. The cards can be obtained 4d. each post free; the Calendar, 2/6 post free; and the book of extracts for 3/6 post free, from Miss Cather, St. Julian, Malta.

The publications issued by the editors of the "Weekly Summary," Shere, Surrey, consist of many novelties in Braille type for the Christmas Season, 1907-8, and are up to the usual high standard of excellence. A sixth Series of the much-appreciated "Day by Day," with text and devotional reading for every day of the month, is published at 8d. post free. A Calendar, for 1908, with a raised design of a timepiece on the cover, and the words, "The horologue of Eternity sayeth this incessantly, 'For ever—never! Never—for ever!'" price 1/1 post free. Christmas cards, an angel embossed with appropriate words, 6d., by post 7d., and at the same price a card, with natural oak spray, and words from Lowell. Also a card with a robin embossed, and another with a star (in uncontracted Braille for beginners), price 1d. each, by post 1½d. The Christmas number of the "Weekly Summary," price 6d. post free, will be ready on December 18th.

21. The report of the British and Foreign Blind Association for 1906 is interesting reading, and shows what a large and necessary sphere of work is covered by its operations. Reference is made to the satisfactory financial position of the Association, which enabled it to carry forward a balance of £300, and to the reduced postage for Braille books. Attention is drawn to the fact that the "Queen," and other similar weighty papers, cost only ½d. by post, whereas embossed magazines like "Progress" used to cost 3d., and sometimes 4d., thus placing the Blind at a

great disadvantage in this respect. However, thanks to the action taken by Lord Valentia in Parliament, by the Association, and by many others, this real grievance has been partially removed by the present Postmaster General.

We note that to Mr. Hamilton is assigned the honour of originating the idea of applying for a reduction of the postal rates, but we fancy that we remember Mr. Illingworth pleading the cause before Mr. Hamilton was appointed Secretary of the Association. At any rate, as long ago as 1896, Mr. Illingworth had so far formulated his ideas that he organised a petition, which was signed by practically all the Chairmen of the Institutions and Societies for the Blind in the country, as well as by several hundreds of blind people, and the petition was sent to the then Postmaster General, the Duke of Norfolk, through his friend, Lord Bute.

There has been a busy time in the publishing department, due in a large measure to the adoption of the revised rules for Braille. The number of plates stereotyped was close on 5,000; 250 volumes were copied by paid blind writers, and over 28,600 magazines, Christmas and other letters, &c., were embossed. A large amount of work has also been done in the bookbinding department. A list is given of certificated Braille writers, and also of those invaluable voluntary writers who devote so much of their time for the benefit of blind readers. A catalogue of books and appliances is also appended.

22. The Glynn Vivian Home of Rest for the Blind, Caswell Hill, Mumbles, near Swansea, was opened on October 8th, when the chair was taken by the Mayor. Mr. Joseph Hall, Hon. Sec. of the Swansea Institution for the Blind, is also Hon. Sec. of the Home, and his long experience with the Blind should be a guarantee that the Home will be managed in the best interests of this afflicted class. We referred to the Home and Mr. Vivian's generous gift in the number for last April, par. 8.

23. The Annual Prize Festival of the Royal Normal College was held on July 26th, when Lord Glenesk took the chair, and

the prizes were presented by Lady Hyde, in the absence of Lady Henry Somerset. The weather was very fine, and there was an exhibition of school classes in the garden. Subsequently, visits were paid to the pianoforte tuning school, gymnasium, type-writing department, and the Concert Hall, where a short but excellent programme was well rendered. Gowns and hoods, which had been subscribed for by the students of the College, were presented by Lady Hyde to Horace Watling and James Crowley, who had recently become Fellows of the Royal College of Organists. Lord Selby proposed, and Lady O'Hagan seconded, a vote of thanks to Lord Glenesk for presiding. He said, in reply, that he felt it an honour to preside, and that it was a delight to see what had been accomplished after years of strenuous effort. He regretted that the State did not make grants to the College, but private charity had made great efforts to support it.

24. The Annual Speech Day and Prize Giving at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, took place on July 25th, and was most successful. The students began to arrive on the previous Saturday, and were the guests of the Rev. T. and Mrs. Barnard, at the College. On Thursday morning there was a celebration of Holy Communion at Whittington Church, when Canon Wilson was the celebrant, and an Address was given by the Rev. N. F. McNeile, a former student. In the afternoon, the proceedings opened with an Organ Recital by Mr. Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac., Oxon., also a former student, and Latin and Greek Recitations by the present students. Lord Cobham occupied the Chair, and remarked on the progress of the College since last year; he was followed by the Headmaster, who made his annual report, and referred to the successes of past students, all of which have already been recorded in these pages. Canon Wilson read extracts from the Examiner's Report, which testified to the good work being done at the College, and offered a Classical Prize, to be called the Forster Prize, in memory of the Rev. S. S. Forster, a former Headmaster. Lady Cobham distributed the prizes, and a vote of thanks was passed to her on the motion of the Rev. N. F. McNeile, seconded by

the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, and a basket full of beautiful roses was presented to her by Mr. and Mrs. Barnard's little daughter. One of the chief incidents of the Meeting was the singing of a "School Song," written by the Rev. T. Barnard, set to music by Mr. Wolstenholme.

25. The report of the 16th year's work of that admirable Society, the "Sunbeam Mission," has been issued, together with a report of the special branch for the Blind, which is doing such beneficent work amongst the blind children, under the fostering care of the kind and energetic Hon. Secretary, Miss Beatrice Taylor. It was a happy thought to offer to every child on the Sunbeam Mission list, attending the London County Schools, who saved 2/—, a Braille writing frame and paper costing 5/—.

Such a gift is a great boon, and there were many children who availed themselves of the opportunity of procuring such a useful and necessary article.

26. On the afternoon of September 6th we spent a very pleasant afternoon at the Institution for the Blind at Exeter, and were much pleased with, and interested in, the latest improvements. Mr. Collingwood, the energetic Superintendent, showed us everything that was to be seen, including his chrysanthemums, the culture of which he takes up as a pastime, and for which he has obtained medals at the Crystal Palace, and many local exhibitions. We gave an account of the new buildings and alterations in the number for October 20th, 1906, the great object gained being the complete separation of the outworkers from the pupils, and additional and better accommodation for both.

27. "The Guardian," of August 14th, states: "One of the most distinguished of blind organists was John Stanley, who concurrently held the organistship of the Temple Church and St. Andrew's Church, Holborn. A contemporary of Handel, he not only (in conjunction with J. C. Smith) conducted the Oratorio performances initiated by Handel, but held the office of Master of the King's Band of Music. . . . Another organist of the Temple Church, Mr. George Warne, was also blind, and

so was Henry Smart, organist of St. Pancras Church. . . In our own day, Mr. Alfred Hollins and Mr. William Wolstenholme, by their remarkable performances and much valued compositions, have proved that the loss of sight is no detriment to their wonderful achievements, executive and creative."

28. The quarterly meeting of the members of the North of England Union of Institutions, Societies, and Agencies for the Blind was held at Carlisle, on August 31st. A series of three meetings were arranged. The Executive Committee met at 1.15 p.m.; the Quarterly General Committee at 2 p.m.; and a Public Meeting, by invitation of the Mayor of Carlisle and of the Carlisle and Cumberland Association for the Blind, was held at 3.30. The members of the Union were welcomed most warmly by the Committee of the Association, and of the Workshops for the Blind. Great credit is due to the two Hon. Secretaries, Miss Hartley and Miss C. R. Hartley, for their painstaking and kindly labours beforehand, which added much to the success of the meetings. There were 34 members present, and Mr. F. J. Munby occupied the Chair. Much regret was expressed at the unavoidable absence of the Hon. Secretary, Miss Heywood.

The Organising Secretary, Miss Edith Wright, read a summary of work done by the Union since the May Conference at York, viz., (1) Correspondence with some Medical Officers of Health, and the Central Midwives Board, on the subject of better Prevention of Blindness in earliest Infancy by enforcing greater care on the part of midwives in the cleansing of the child's eyes at birth. A resolution had been passed, and sent to the Central Midwives Board in July last, asking that the word "shall" should be inserted in place of the word "should" in their Rule 14, in reference to the careful cleansing of the eyes.

Mr. Illingworth, of Manchester, spoke strongly on this subject, and said that Midwives should be compelled to do this, and that the neglect of so acting should be a criminal offence. He urged that this is so in other countries, and that where this care of the eyes is made compulsory at birth, this special form of

blindness is almost unknown. He moved that a deputation be sent from the Union to the Home Secretary, asking for better legislation on this question. Much discussion followed, and Dr. Hartley, though agreeing with Mr. Illingworth in many points, felt it was not an opportune time to take such action. Further discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

(2) Communications with some officials of different Education Authorities, who had attended the York Conference, strongly approving of the Union, as a means for furthering their work in the education of those over 16 years of age. It was resolved that the eight County Education Authorities within the six Northern Counties be asked to send a representative to act on the General Committee.

(3) The report of two important meetings, held at Lancaster and Barrow, called by the invitation of the respective Mayors, when a deputation from the "Union" was invited to "aid in forming a Society to care for the Blind of the District." A deputation of three members of the "Union" attended each meeting, and much interest was aroused in each place, and a Committee formed to care for the Blind in the district.

(4) Nearly all the Societies for the Blind in the six Northern Counties are now affiliated to the "Union," only five or six remain doubtful.

(5) Letter from Mr. Stainsby, asking for information of the "Union," as Dr. Campbell and he think similar Unions should be set on foot in the South and West.

(6) A large Public Meeting was held in Carlisle, when the Chair was taken by the High Sheriff of Cumberland, who welcomed the Union, and expressed a hope that all the Societies for the Blind would join. He particularly wished to support it in the work it was doing in the direction of the Prevention of Blindness.

Mr. F. J. Munby thanked the Committee of the Carlisle and Cumberland Association for the Blind for the welcome they had shown to the members of the Union, and he trusted that their visit might be the means of strengthening the good work being done by the Misses Hartley and their Committee.

Mr. Illingworth of Manchester and Dr. Hills (oculist), of Carlisle, spoke on the subject of Prevention of Blindness.

Mr. Meeson, of Leeds, and Mr. Townson, of Accrington, spoke on "The best means of helping the Adult and Industrious Blind."

Mr. Siddall, of Rochdale, and Mr. Jones, of Whitehaven, both spoke on "The best means of Teaching and Visiting the Blind in their own Homes."

After which, all the Company were entertained to tea by the Mayor of Carlisle, who thanked the "Union" for their visit, and said that it was his intention to press upon their Library Committee the need of providing books for the Blind.

The success and enthusiastic interest shewn throughout all these meetings, brings home very forcibly to all concerned, how useful Unions, such as the one for the North of England, may be to all centres of blind work within their area. The meetings not only bring together the members for mutual consultation and discussion on important questions bearing on the betterment of the Blind, but also all those locally interested in the subject.

The official report of the Conference held in York by the "Union" in May last, of which we gave an account in our last number, has been published and can be obtained from Mr. A. B. Norwood, School for the Blind, York, price 1/1, post free. The next quarterly meeting of the Union takes place on November 30th, at Liverpool, where all the Institutions and Societies have joined.

29. We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the memoir of the late Michael Anagnos (1837-1906), by his lifelong friend, Mr. F. B. Sauborn. The book is well printed and bound. The memoir is a reprint from the 75th Annual Report of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind.

30. The second number of the "Outlook for the Blind" has been published, and is excellent, both as regards illustrations and letterpress. We heartily congratulate the Editor, Mr. Charles Campbell, on having successfully started such a useful magazine, interesting not only to readers in the United States

of America, but to all who have the interests of the Blind at heart in every part of the world. If, however, it be kept up to the high level of the second number, we opine that large donations will be required in addition to the regular subscriptions in order to meet the expense of publication. We hope the public will rise to the occasion and support this excellent philanthropic effort. It has been arranged for the magazine to be published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October, so as to synchronise with the issue of "The Blind," and afford an opportunity for interchange of articles.

31. We have received copies of the annual reports of several Institutions for the Blind in the United States of America and Canada, for which we are most grateful. The one of the Pennsylvania Institution for the instruction of the Blind, contains exceptionally good photographs of different scenes in the athletic sports, and of a game of football. We much regret that for want of space we are unable to refer to these interesting reports in detail.

32. Mr. Tadasu Yoshimoto has written us that the first Conference in Japan, on matters relating to the Blind, was to be held last May in Tokyo. He says that the "Blind Society" is making great headway, and that the Schools for the Blind in Japan already number 35.

33. At the Esperanto Congress, held in August, at Cambridge, a French professor, interested in the Blind, strongly advocated their instruction in Esperanto, and stated that there was a blind representative present from seventeen different nations.

34. In "Le Valentin Haüy," for August, there is an interesting article on machines for writing Braille. The Hall, the Picht, and the Kleidograph are reviewed in detail, and a perfect machine is suggested by some disinterested person combining the best qualifications of each machine. The Office of the Association Valentin Haüy has been removed to 9, Rue Duroc, Paris.

35. A report of the Society for the benefit of the Blind in Barbados, for two years ended June 30th last, has reached us. The Society was started at the instance of five men who held an informal meeting on May 30th, 1905, and a formal one on June 20th of the same year. Wood-chopping has been tried, but had to be relinquished, as it was being conducted at a loss. A small room is now rented, where a stock of tea is kept and sent out by blind carriers, and where there are books in embossed types, and Braille writing boards, &c. Several ladies kindly teach Braille, and visit the Blind in their homes. There are 173 blind persons in the island, of whom 27 have applied for employment. The brunt of the organisation of the Society fell on the Hon. Secretary, the Rev. W. H. Mayers, whose energy and interest in the cause of the Blind are unceasing.

36. We acknowledge, with many thanks, the safe receipt of a copy of Mr. Moldenhawer's History of the Royal Institution for the Blind at Copenhagen. It is published in French, contains very good illustrations, especially the portrait of the author, and gives full particulars of the Institution, founded in 1858, of which Mr. Moldenhawer was Director for 47 years—from 1858 to 1905. Much useful information is given about the Blind, especially in regard to the boot-making and repairing, which is a speciality at this Institution, and has been very successful. We congratulate Mr. Moldenhawer on having written such an interesting work, and thank him for giving us his experience in the education of the Blind through many years of devoted and constant labour.

37. Mr. Branco Rodriguez is to be congratulated on the 11th volume of the Journal for the Blind which he edits in Lisbon. In our last number we referred to his great interest in the Blind of Portugal, where there are said to be nearly 8,000, and where the percentage of blind to sighted persons is higher than in any European nation, excepting Russia. The magazine contains articles on the Blind in Germany, Spain, Holland, Finland, Russia, Japan, and Ireland, but not England or Scotland, and at the end gives the financial statements of the schools at Lisbon and Oporto.

38. We thank the Superintendent of that excellent Institution for the Blind at Lausanne, which we had the pleasure of visiting four years ago, for a copy of the Report for 1906. It shows satisfactory work, and gives an interesting account of the cases treated at the Ophthalmic Hospital which is attached to the Institution.

39. The First Spanish Congress for the amelioration of the condition of the blind and of the deaf was held in December last. There were 400 delegates present. The discussion was chiefly in regard to the deaf. It was agreed to publish a manual of instruction for parents with blind children, to admit blind teachers in Schools for the Blind, to found new establishments for the blind, and to endeavour to obtain exemption for blind tradesmen from certain taxes.

40. A meeting of the Committee appointed to organise the Conference, to be held next July, is convened for October 26th. It will be held at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, and at the Afternoon Session the Local Committee, who are working with great zeal and earnestness, will be present.

INSTITUTIONS.

Dublin. The report for 1906 of the Richmond National Institution for the Industrious Blind, 41, Upper Sackville Street, was presented at a meeting of subscribers on May 6th. There were 28 men and 2 women inmates in the house and 32 outdoor workers employed in the workshop. A sum of £276 was paid in supplement to wages to the outdoor workers. The sales amounted to £3,808, and £720 were paid in wages. The income of the Pepper Endowment Fund, amounting to £956, has been applied solely towards the maintenance of the Institution and the inmates residing therein.

Hanley. The 5th annual meeting of the North Staffordshire Workshop for the Blind was held on September 25th, when the report for the year ended June 30th, was presented. It shows marked progress, especially in the financial position and refers to the purchase of the present premises. There are 21 males and 9 females employed. The wages amounted to £709 and the sales to £1,722. Five acres of land have been rented to see whether willows can be advantageously grown locally. The Workshop is recognised by the County of Stafford Education Committee as a Technical Training School for Blind persons. A sick club has been established.

Leicester. The 48th annual report of the Leicester Association for the Blind, 50, Granby Street, for the year 1906 was presented at the annual meeting held on June 20th. The blind workers received £741, including £107 given by way of supplement to their earnings. Constant employment was found in the workshops for 33 blind persons (18 men and 15 women). The sales amounted to £2,041. There are 192 blind persons on the register, who are visited by a sighted Biblewoman. There are 4 aged blind women in the Cottage Home. Small weekly allowances are given to several blind persons.

London. (a) The 72nd report of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society, 8, Red Lion Square, W.C., for the year ended March 31st, 1907, shows the work done by 10 blind visitors, including the Superintendent, amongst the blind poor. The classes have been well attended and a sum of £1,555 has been granted in special cases of distress and in pensions paid fortnightly. "Eyes to the Blind," an offshoot of the Society started and superintended by Miss Douglas Hamilton, continues to do good work at its offices, 17, Callow Street, Fulham Road, S.W.

(b) The 27th annual meeting of the North London Homes for blind men and women, 77, Hanley Road, N., was held on May 30th, when the report for the year ended May 22nd, 1907, was presented. The inmates number 114. Reference is made to the extension of the Southend Branch Home, which was opened free of debt on June 12th.

Newcastle. The 40th annual report of the Newcastle Workshops for the Adult Blind, Breamish Street, for the year ended March 31st, shows that the sales amounted to £2,366, and that £798 were paid in wages to the Blind. There are 25 men and 5 women employed, and the Committee hope gradually to increase the number to 60 blind workers for whom there is accommodation,

Northampton. The report for 1906 of the Northampton and County Association for the Blind was presented at the annual meeting of subscribers, and shows that on December 31st, 20 blind persons were employed. The sales amounted to £1636 and £382 were paid in wages to blind workers. A legacy of £250 was received. Four blind persons received 2/6 a week under the George Phillips Trust.

Norwich. The report for 1906 of the Asylum and School for the Indigent Blind, Magdalen Street, refers to the assessment of the property and buildings being raised from £10 to £250 and the consequent increase of payment of inmates to 9/- a week. On December 31st there were in the Technical School 20 males and 13 females, and in the Asylum 4 men and 10 women. There were also 9 non-resident journeymen. The sales amounted to £558 and £195 were paid in wages to journeyman. The legacies amounted to £632.

THE EFFECT OF BITING THE FINGER NAILS CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO THE READING NERVES OF A BLIND CHILD.

Having been engaged in the Education of the Blind for a quarter of a Century, and for the greater part of that period almost entirely amongst blind children, I have had opportunities of observing individual peculiarities, habits and characteristics of children of widely differing natures and capabilities, and of noting the effects, physical, mental, or both which have resulted.

To a child bereft of, or defective in sight, its most valuable

asset, so to speak, from a utilitarian point of view is its sense of Touch, as the finger tips have to be trained to take the place of the eyes for the purposes of acquiring knowledge by reading books, as well as ascertaining form, dimensions, and all other information usually acquired through the agency of sight.

Realising this, every possible care should be taken by those in charge of blind children, or a blind child, that injury to the hands and fingers—more especially the finger tips—be guarded against most rigidly. This remark applies quite as much to parents and others who have a blind child at home, as to those in charge of Schools and Institutions.

It does not occur, however, to most people, that the habit of biting the finger nails, a habit so very common amongst children of all ages, is a serious menace to a blind child's chances of success in life. In a seeing child, the habit is simply looked upon as harmless, dirty, disgusting or reprehensible according to the standpoint or nature of the observer, but beyond spoiling the shape of the fingers to a greater or less extent, probably little real harm is done.

In the case of a blind child, there is a serious aspect to be considered.

Embossed books for the blind are either in point or line type. The former, of which the best known and almost universally used is "Braille," and the latter Dr. Moon's—such books must be read with the finger tips: not exactly the finger end, but the soft pad or cushion immediately below the end: to be exact, that part of the finger where a pin would emerge if it were driven through the middle of the finger nail at right angles to it.

The centre of this pad or cushion is the most sensitive portion of the finger in any ordinary individual, and as the greatest dimension of any Braille character is only about five sixteenths of an inch, it is readily covered by the centre of this highly sensitive pad, the hand being laid practically flat on the page of the book, and the fingers fully extended.

I have observed three distinct degrees of nail biting. First, where the individual simply bites his nails instead of cutting them, and is content as soon as they are so far shortened.

Secondly, the one who habitually eats his nails till there is a considerable portion of the flesh protruding beyond the shortened nail.

And Thirdly, the individual who is not content with eating his nails, but attacks the thick skin or integument at the finger end where the nail has previously been eaten away.

The blind child who gets no further than Stage I of nail biting does not appear to suffer much inconvenience from the habit, so far as reading is concerned, but there is the ever present danger that he may become a victim to Stage II or even III, in which Stages, as will readily be observed, the flesh at the end of the finger turns back cushionwise over the end of the nail. This abnormal condition of the end of the finger appears to bring the reading nerves away from their normal position, as above described, right up to the end of the finger, where the bend is so sharp that only a portion of the embossed character can be felt, unless the finger is moved up and down or in a circular direction. Such movement seriously retards the rate of progress along the line, and therefore interferes with the fluency of reading. But there is further mischief. The integument at the finger end becomes hard and thick, and the sense of touch is thereby greatly dulled.

It will be readily understood that this double disaster, comprising (a) the distortion and displacement of the highly sensitive reading pad and (b) the abnormal thickening of the integument, must constitute a serious handicap to the blind child's progress as a reader and therefore as a student.

It may be further interesting for me to state that in my experience the best readers of embossed type—I mean most fluent—have been good pianists. In my opinion this is not simply what might be termed a converse result. I believe the constant massaging which the reading pads of the fingers receive during piano practice, conduces greatly to the developing of sensitiveness in the nerves of that portion of the finger which is precisely the same in both cases.

W. H. ILLINGWORTH, *Superintendent,*
Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester.

"THE BLIND SISTERS OF ST. PAUL,"

By MAURICE DE LA SIZERANNE,

(Translated by L. M. LEGGATT.)

In August, 1885, we had the pleasure of accompanying the late Dr. Armitage and Monsr. Maurice de la Sizeranne to the top of the detached tower of the Cathedral at Utrecht, an ascent of 458 steps! and there described to them the lovely panorama spread out before us. It is now with renewed pleasure we take up Monsr. de la Sizeranne's most interesting book for review. But before writing a short review of this most charming and enlightened book, we would express an earnest hope that our readers will not be content till they have procured and read the volume itself, for no review could do justice to the thoughtful sympathy for the real welfare of the Blind, and the clear and practical suggestions and information contained therein.

It is doubtless known to most of our readers that Monsr. de la Sizeranne became blind before reaching ten years of age, and that his life has been spent in the service of the Blind. In 1889 he founded the well known Valentin Haüy Association, of which he is Chief Secretary, and issues two papers, the "Valentin Haüy," and the "Louise Braille." We also wish to record the important fact that his principal work, "Les Aveugles par un Aveugle," was crowned by the French Academy.

The book under notice is divided into two parts, the first part being devoted to the psychology of blind women—the enormous influence of their surroundings, their contact with nature, the way in which they are encouraged to physical activity, or, alas! from mistaken kindness, perhaps the reverse—their everyday life, their various dispositions and affections. In short, nothing that can instruct the sighted person and help him to understand the lot of the Blind is omitted, and we confess to never before having been so thoroughly convinced how completely we, who have sight, depend upon that one sense, until we

read Monsr. de la Sizeranne's description of the possibilities contained in the utilization of the others.

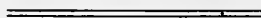
To come to the second part of the book, about 1850, Mlle. Anne Bergunion, who had previously conducted a workroom for young girls, began admitting blind ones, and later on this workroom became the Community of the Blind Sisters of St. Paul. In 1852 postulant's dress was adopted, and in 1853 thirteen nuns, of whom seven were blind, received the habit. Since then, the community has increased to sixty, the rule being to receive one blind nun to two sighted ones, in accordance with the wish of Pius IX., when he gave his "Brief of Approbation."

Most full and interesting descriptions are given of the Convent life in its various departments; the common social life, as exemplified in the Community Room, the classes of children of different ages, the Work-room, where women of all ages are employed, the reception of blind lady boarders in the Home, and the brush-makers, apprentices, and workwomen of all ages, a department largely initiated by the Valentin Haüy Association, and other details of the daily work too numerous to mention.

The whole book is a tremendous lesson on the importance of little things, and the great and far-reaching ends that may arrive from the very smallest beginnings. We cannot believe that Monsr. de la Sizeranne will find response lacking to his earnest appeal for more sighted nuns to join the Community, and thus ensure the admission of many blind women who else must be kept outside.

In conclusion, may we mark for admiration two features of the book? The exquisite extracts from various authors, for introduction to whom many readers will feel the liveliest gratitude, and the excellent translation into English of the whole work.

The book is published at 7/6, and is to be obtained from Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co., 43, Gerrard Street, Soho, London, W.



SOCIETIES AND MISSIONS FOR THE BLIND IN SCOTLAND, 1857-1907.

The Paper which I have been asked to write on the "Societies and Missions to the Blind in Scotland," may be considered as a necessary complement to the interesting and informing article in last issue of "The Blind," on "The Educational and Industrial Institutions for the Blind in Scotland."

The number of blind people in Scotland may be reckoned as about 4,000. The Educational and Industrial Institutions deal with about 760 of these ; the Societies and Missions for the Blind deal, in various ways, with the remaining 3,240, who are living in their own homes all over the land.

Small Beginnings. The first Institution for the Blind in Scotland was founded in Edinburgh in 1793, one hundred and fourteen years ago. The first Home Teaching Society was also founded in Edinburgh in 1857, just fifty years ago, so that this is the Jubilee year of the movement in Scotland.

A consideration of the limited number in any way touched by the then existing Institutions, and a little enquiry as to the large mass of blind people who were living in their own homes, showed that in too many cases they were alike helpless, hopeless and neglected.

The first Home Teacher appointed was Mr. John Brown, who continued in this service till his death four years ago.

Mr. Brown's narrative of how he began with twelve persons will speak for itself. He says "I met Sheriff Heriot in Princes Street, Edinburgh, when he told me of a relative of his from England, Miss Graham, who thought of beginning a movement among the Blind by teaching them to read on the Moon type. I was asked to become Missionary to the Blind, and thereafter, met the Committee at Sheriff Heriot's house. They had no money on hand and could only afford to have a missionary for

half time. Nevertheless I took it on faith, trusting that something would turn up. The work among them increased so quickly, that my duties in the Water of Leith district had to be given up and my whole time devoted to the Blind. After we were established in Edinburgh and the neighbouring Counties, we thought that what was good for Edinburgh would be good for all the Blind of Scotland. A beginning was made by the Committee sending a Home Teacher to Glasgow, and he began the work there. For the same reason I travelled, establishing Societies from Dumfries in the south, to Caithness in the north, including Orkney and Shetland."

Well may the late Mr. Brown be called "The Apostle of the North," so far as service of the Blind of Scotland is concerned.

In this jubilee year, the one Society and one Missionary Teacher are now ten Societies and twenty-four Missionary Teachers, while the twelve blind persons under the charge of Mr. Brown, have grown to the 3,240 who are visited at present in every part of Scotland.

Like Edinburgh, Glasgow became a centre from which the movement spread all over the West of Scotland. It attracted the sympathy and support of many of the most worthy citizens, and has always retained their practical services as directors.

On the formation of the Glasgow Mission in 1859, Mr. Archibald Arrol, a Glasgow Merchant, was the first treasurer; in the present year, his son, Mr. William Auchincloss Arrol, who is himself blind, fills the chair as President. His services on the Royal Commission on the Blind are still remembered, and his interest and services on behalf of the Blind are continued till this day.

Home Teaching and Libraries. Home visitation lies at the base of all definite work in the interest of the Blind, and home teaching is still a most important ameliorating influence. The mental and moral value of this department of work is simply incalculable and it still deserves to receive a high place in the work of our Societies.

The following emphatic testimony given by a blind man in Glasgow forty-five years ago, has been often repeated by others.

“As for me, I would not give my laborious reading since my sight failed, for all the reading I have ever read with my two eyes. The blessing of God will attend your labours in teaching the blind to read for themselves. When another reads to me I only catch some few ideas from a passage, but when I read a passage myself, with time to meditate upon it, I succeed in getting richer profit out of the reading.”

In referring to the benefits of home teaching among the adult blind, their indebtedness to Dr. Moon's system should be recorded. It was for long the only practicable system, and the pleasure and profit it has brought to many of our Blind cannot be over estimated. The Braille system now has very properly a large place in the work of Home Teaching Societies but there are still a considerable proportion of adult blind who will have reason to be grateful for the books issued in Moon type.

Each of the ten Societies and Missions has its own Free Lending Library, and arrangements are made for the distribution of books to any part of Scotland. There are about 19,000 volumes in Moon and Braille in the ten Libraries. In the case of Glasgow and Edinburgh, the Libraries are helped by the respective Corporations, as it was realised that the Blind did not take advantage to any extent of the books for the Blind placed in the Corporation Libraries.

For many years the Mission to the Blind in Glasgow has arranged an Annual Competition in Braille reading and writing and in Moon reading and pencil writing. Last year there were seventy entries from adults, ranging from 25 to 71 years of age. There were also twenty entries from children attending the Glasgow Board Schools, and two silver medals and money prizes to the value of £17 were awarded to the successful competitors. A valuable complement to the home teaching has been provided by the formation of four Blind Men's Reading Clubs in Glasgow and Paisley, at which seeing friends read aloud from newspapers, magazines and good books, to the delight and profit of their hearers. About 100 of our blind and their friends have taken advantage of these weekly gatherings.

Education of Blind Children. In a review of the work in Scotland, a reference to this subject cannot be left out. In the early years of the movement in Scotland, much attention was given to the children in the course of home visitation, as it was found that many children, both in town and country, were growing up without any education. The cost of admission to the Institution schools and the severance of home life, which this form of education meant, led to many parents simply doing the best they could at home. The Scottish Societies were alive to this state of matters, and they felt that advantage should be taken of the ordinary day schools in the district where the children lived. Experiments made in several schools showed that there were great possibilities in this plan. Petitions were presented to Parliament, and the outcome was that a clause was drafted by the President of the Glasgow Mission to the Blind (Sir James Watson). This was accepted by the Lord Advocate, and embodied in the Scottish Education Act, 1872, making provision for the education of the Blind along with seeing children in the public Board Schools. An Amending Act was passed in 1890, which still further defines the responsibility of School Boards for the education of all blind children up to 16 years of age. This is carried out by sending the pupil either to the ordinary public school or to some Institution school for the Blind. Glasgow, Paisley and Aberdeen School Boards, make special provision for teaching blind children in the ordinary schools, and the teachers in a number of rural schools have been very useful in individual cases in their districts. There is room for both systems being carried on, but a much needed amendment of the Education Act is that power should be given to School Boards to continue technical, industrial, and musical training up to 21 years of age.

Employment. The Mission and Home Teaching Societies in Scotland have always been much exercised about the question of employment for the adult Blind, but they have never attempted, as in England, to start workshops in which the usual industries of basket making, brush making, and mat making, would be provided. The Institutions in Scotland

not only train the Blind in the various handicrafts, but they also provide permanent employment for the most of those whom they train. The starting of such workshops by outside societies would therefore be considered an unwise competition by the Institutions, apart from other difficulties. Any extension of workshops could therefore be best carried out by the present Institutions, and there is no doubt a demand for such extensions in more populous districts.

The Scottish Societies have therefore given their attention to other more individual and less organised forms of employment, and specially have kept in view those who, on account of age or other reasons, could not get employment with any of the Institutions. That a large number have been guided and helped by the different Societies is a matter of much thankfulness.

Statistics collected for the International Conference in Edinburgh, brought out a large number of facts bearing on the work in Scotland, and those interested may consult the paper on "The Out-door Blind of Scotland," as printed in the Official Report. These showed that 113 men were employed in various situations, largely through the help of the Societies. 313 were engaged in various forms of trading on their own account and 86 found occupations as music teachers, organists, and piano tnners. The amount of income earned by those in situations or following professions, cannot be properly estimated, but enquiries lead us to believe that those engaged in trading will realise an average of ten shillings per week, which for the 313 traders means £8,147 per annum, a very distinct contribution to many family incomes.

All the Societies do something in encouraging this method of help, but for many years the Glasgow Mission has made this a special feature of their work, and they will have about 160 persons within their area engaged in trading, as the result of help rendered in the way of providing capital. The forms of trading are varied, but tea, drapery, hardware, coal, firewood, fish and fruit are among those most commonly followed. A limited number have been taught various kinds of netting and mat making, but these can scarcely be relied on for a permanent income.

So far as women are concerned, knitting is the occupation that has been found most simple and profitable. About 250 women are engaged in their homes in this way, and thus make a contribution towards their income, and the various Societies help in the disposal of their output by sales of work and otherwise. The Glasgow Ladies' Auxiliary has organized this department of work most admirably; 160 women are supplied with wool and paid for their work. The Society takes the responsibility of not only supplying the wool but also disposes of the work in their own sale shop, which forms part of the Mission premises. The sales for knitted goods last year amounted to £523.

There are a large number of aged and infirm Blind for whom no employment is possible and for whom other forms of benevolent help must be devised, but there are two classes of our Blind, the existence of which raises questions of a most difficult nature. I refer to the fact that 340 of our blind persons are inmates of our poorhouses, and that 129 are to be found on our streets as beggars, musicians, or readers. We cannot feel satisfied while such a state of matters exists.

Benevolence and Social Agencies. The poverty of so many of the outdoor Blind necessitates some provision being made to meet the clamant needs. In many of the country districts this need is not so pressing, but in our congested cities and towns it is always before us. At least £2500 will reach the Blind in Scotland from the benevolent funds of the various Societies and Missions. Glasgow and Edinburgh have each special Pension Funds, and there is room for an extension of this form of help in Scotland. A large amount of aid is also secured from other Pension Societies for the Blind and from other available charities, and every legitimate influence is brought to bear when the matter of outdoor relief from the Parish is called for.

Anything that brings brightness into the lives of the Blind is a proper sphere of operations for the energies of our Societies. Much is done by them all in finding admission lines for Infirmaries and Convalescent Homes, and the larger Societies

are now doing something on their own account. The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Glasgow Mission has Holiday Homes, both at Skelmorlie and Biggar, which are kept up by two ladies interested in the work; 123 blind women have had the advantage of a fortnight's residence in one of these well equipped homes. The Edinburgh Society has also a small cottage at Kirkliston, at which 50 blind and their guides had a short holiday.

A more recent experiment is the leasing of a small Home for Indigent Blind women in Glasgow, where, for a nominal rent, comfortable rooms are provided, amid environments that would not be possible otherwise. Seven women are at present occupying these rooms.

The annual "Day at the Coast" of the Glasgow Mission is a unique excursion, when about 900 of the Blind and their guides spend a happy day at the sea-side, which lightens up many of the other dull drab days. There are besides the Social gatherings and Concerts which most of our Societies are able occasionally to arrange, and the spiritual fellowship and help which are provided in so many forms; all these are to our people as lights set in a dark place, "until the day dawns and the shadows flee away."

Scottish Outdoor Blind Teachers' Union. One reason why the work of the various Societies and Missions in Scotland, maintains a solidarity and cohesion that is less apparent in other parts of Great Britain is the existence of the above

Union, which was formed at a Conference of the Missionary teachers of Scotland held in Perth twenty-five years ago. Without either constitution or funds, it has formed a bond of unity by its annual conferences which has been of the greatest service to the work in Scotland.

These Conferences have been held in the different districts of Scotland, from Inverness in the north to Dumfries in the south. The Society in whose district the conference is held takes the responsibility and expense of the arrangements and is assisted by a committee of the Union in arranging the programme. As a result of the Union there is something like uniformity in tabulating the more essential statistics, and returns bearing on the

whole of Scotland are therefore more reliable and easily compiled. The conferences are also helpful in spreading knowledge of this work in the district in which the meetings are held.

The following paragraphs give a brief summary of the work of the different Societies and Missions for the Blind in Scotland.

EDINBURGH AND SOUTH-EAST OF SCOTLAND SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING READING AMONG THE ADULT BLIND.

ESTABLISHED 1857.

Office and Library, 20, St. James Square, Edinburgh ;
Mr. C. W. NESS, Superintendent.

There are 449 blind persons on the roll of the Society. The work is carried on by two missionary teachers and a collector. Two blind copyists are constantly employed. The free library contains 3365 volumes—1887 Moon and 1478 Braille, besides magazines. Sabbath afternoon meetings are held in the Eye Wards of the Infirmary, and assistance is given by ladies in visitation of the Blind. Knitting is provided for a number of women and a sale of work is held to dispose of the goods. A number of men try hawking, with varied success, tea being found most remunerative. About £100 was spent in benevolent purposes last year. The Jamieson Pension Fund has just been gifted, and, when fully in operation, about £300 will be available annually for pensions. A large social meeting of the Blind and their friends was held, and four district social meetings. About 50 of the blind and their guides had a fortnight's holiday at the home at Kirkliston.

MISSION TO THE OUTDOOR BLIND FOR GLASGOW AND THE WEST OF SCOTLAND.

ESTABLISHED 1859.

Office and Library : 221, Buchanan Street, Glasgow ;
Mr. J. FREW BRYDEN, Superintendent.

There are six missionary teachers. one librarian and one collector engaged in carrying on the work. The roll of the Mission contains 1567 blind persons, 834 residing in Glasgow

and 733 in the six adjoining counties. The free lending library contains 4500 volumes in Braille and Moon types and a large number of magazines. An annual competition in Braille reading and writing, also Moon reading and pencil writing, is held and money prizes given. Four reading clubs meet weekly in Glasgow and Paisley. Grants of money, to begin or continue trading, were given last year to forty-five men, amounting to £163, and several blind men were employed more or less regularly at Braille writing. Seventy-eight aged and infirm blind persons received monthly pensions amounting to £370 for the year, and for necessitous and special cases, coals, blankets and clothing, £425 was disbursed. Admittance lines were secured for Infirmaries and Convalescent Homes as required. A "Day at the Coast" is given to about 900 of the blind and their guides, and a number of social and musical evenings provided. A sabbath service is held in the Eye Infirmary and a weekly service with the knitters class.

GLASGOW LADIES' AUXILIARY.

Sale Shop and Class-room : 1, Bath Street, Glasgow.

A committee of ladies takes a special interest in visiting and helping 411 women and girls on the roll of the Mission ; 146 are knitters and have received £406 as wages and 139 have received small monthly alimENTS amounting to £303. A number of knitters attend the workroom daily, while the ladies who visit read and play. The two Cottage Homes already referred to have been largely taken advantage of, and the home for Indigent Blind women is proving a success. An annual excursion to the knitters and a New Year's dinner are events in the year's proceedings.

FIFE AND KINROSS SOCIETY.

ESTABLISHED 1865.

Office and Library : 27, Kirk Wynd, Kirkcaldy.

Miss CRAIG, Teacher.

There are 121 persons on the roll. The free library has 412 volumes in Moon and Braille. A social afternoon is held weekly

in Kirkcaldy and a home industry section has been started, and knitting, rug making and net bag making, are being taught. A Sale of Work and two concerts by blind artistes were held, which resulted in a credit balance of £27 8s. A little benevolent help was given for special cases.

STIRLING, CLACKMANNAN AND LINLITHGOW SOCIETY.

ESTABLISHED 1866.

Missionary Teacher: Mr. WILLIAM MILNE, Fenton Street, Alloa.

One hundred and four blind persons on roll. Free library 1510 volumes in Moon and Braille. About 34 persons are occupied in some form of industry or trading and about 20 are engaged keeping house. £42 has been spent in benevolent and industrial help.

CITY AND COUNTY OF PERTH SOCIETY.

ESTABLISHED 1866.

Missionary Teacher: Mr. WM. THOMSON, Wellshill Terrace, Perth.

There are 113 blind persons on the roll and the library contains 1312 volumes in Moon and Braille. A number of men are engaged in trading and a large amount of knitting is done by the women on the roll. A Ladies Auxiliary Committee has been recently formed and has been of great value in forwarding the aims of the Society.

NORTHERN COUNTIES INSTITUTE.

ESTABLISHED 1867.

Office, Library and Workshops: 61, Castle Street, Inverness
Mr. M. G. MACKENZIE, Superintendent.

This organization started as a Home Teaching Society for the County of Inverness, in 1867. It then extended its work to include six northern counties and has the most widely scattered district in Scotland. There are three visiting teachers. The central library has 3450 volumes in Moon and Braille, and there are, in addition, five local libraries. There is also an Educational

Home with thirteen pupils and an Industrial Department with seventeen blind men.

MISSION TO THE BLIND FOR FORFARSHIRE AND SOUTH
KINCARDINESHIRE.

ESTABLISHED 1869.

Office and Library : St. Helens, Forfar.

Missionary Teacher : Miss. J. S. LYALL.

There are 136 blind persons on the roll. The library has 1200 volumes in Moon and Braille. There is a Braille Society composed of ladies who issue the "Excelsior" Magazine in Braille. A number of the men are employed in various industries, and knitting is encouraged among the women; 1040 cuts of wool were knitted and disposed of last year, besides macrame bags and other articles realising £93. Three Sales of Work and Concerts were held which were all successful. Means have been provided to convey those suffering from eye troubles to the Eye Institution, Dundee, and others had spectacles provided for them. About £50 were distributed in coals, clothing and other helps.

DUNDEE MISSION TO THE OUTDOOR BLIND.

ESTABLISHED 1879.

Office and Library : 23, Castle Street, Dundee.

Mr. JOHN GALT, Superintendent and an Assistant Teacher.

The roll contains 169 blind persons, and the library has 961 volumes in Moon and Braille; 84 persons are employed in various ways, all of whom have been or are being helped by the Mission. There are 47 persons in receipt of pensions from local charities, which are very numerous in Dundee. About £120 has been spent from the sick and benevolent fund in varying forms of help.

The ladies' auxiliary has been of great service in collecting, visiting, and writing Braille books. A new departure was the writing of seven Braille books in the Tonga language for the Blind School in Livingstonia, Africa.

ABERDEEN TOWN AND COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Superintendent: Mr. ROBERT MELDRUM, 92, Bonnymuir Place,
Aberdeen.

There are 238 blind persons on the roll, but this Association also arranges an annual visit to the blind in Orkney and Shetland, which makes an addition of 89 to their roll. There are four assistants engaged in carrying on the different departments of work. Home industries and various forms of trading are encouraged. Twelve blind persons are employed in making trawling, salmon, and other nets. Eight are engaged in selling tea. Fourteen do knitting to order, and some of them get more work than they can do. A connection has been opened with blind women in Shetland to supply native made shawls. A large number of the blind on the roll are in receipt of pensions from different societies; £216 reaching them yearly in this way. About £116 has been spent in helping workers and in various forms of benevolence.

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SOCIETY.

ESTABLISHED 1882.

Missionary Teacher: Mr. JOHN THOMSON, Rae Street, Dumfries.

One hundred and six blind persons on the roll. The library contains about 800 volumes in Moon and Braille. The work of this Society is mainly in home teaching and visitation.

J. FREW BRYDEN, *Superintendent*,

MISSION TO THE OUTDOOR BLIND FOR
GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND.

HV1571

B

c. 1

The blind. Vol. 1, ¹⁹⁰³⁻¹⁹⁰⁷~~1898-1902~~.

Date Due

HV1571

c. 2

B

AUTHOR

THE BLIND. Vol. 2, 1903-1907

TITLE

DATE
LOANED

BORROWER'S NAME

